116 Pages Sparkling with Summer Inspiration

COTTAGES
& BUNGALOWS

From Lakeside *to* Seafront

Tour four charming homes and an adorable glamper

Create a gallery wall with nautical **vintage art**

See a dreamy picking garden, set an alfresco Italian table and shop outdoor décor

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The *Magic* of Blue Waters

DID YOU KNOW THAT SIMPLY WALKING IN A BLUE SPACE (where water is visible) for just 20 minutes per day can lower stress and anxiety, increase happiness and even lower your heart rate? It's no wonder why many of us dream of vacationing or, better yet, living near a body of water!

To celebrate the magic of blue waters, we've prepared coast-to-coast house tours from Laguna Beach, California, to South Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, (starting on pages 42 and 54, respectively). Join us as we linger along a Texas lakeshore in the cutest glamper ever (page 94). Envision yourself vacationing at beach huts for rent along the Mersea Island coast (page 28), boating on Lake Muskoka in Canada (page 76) or picking flowers in the Dutch countryside (page 66).

We're also exploring kitchen banquettes (page 22), creating salute-worthy vignettes with Americana (page 16), setting a spectacular outdoor dining table (page 90) and using vintage nautical art for a statement-making gallery wall.

And don't forget to check in on our 2023 Brand Ambassador, Lisa Rocco (page 10) and the latest update from Project House Utah (page 102).

We sincerely appreciate you joining us for this issue and hope that your summer is full of blue-water views!

Kelly McMaster

Kelly McMaster, *Editor*

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@cottagesandbungalows

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COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS

August | September 2023 • Vol. 17, Issue 4

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COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS (ISSN 1941-4056) is published 6 times per year—Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan—by EG Media Investments LLC, 3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707. Periodical postage paid at Durham, NC, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Cottages & Bungalows c/o EG Media Investments LLC, ColorArt, 101 Workman Ct., Eureka, MO 63025. Canadian Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC., P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2, Canada. GST #855050365RT001.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$24.95/1 year, $39.95/2 years.
Foreign, $49.95/1 year, $89.95/2 years, payable in U.S. funds. Single copy price is $11.99. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for new subscriptions to begin.

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COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS (ISSN 1941-4056) is published 6 times per year—Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun/Jul, Aug/Sep, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan—by EG Media Investments LLC, 3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707. Periodical postage paid at Durham, NC, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Cottages & Bungalows c/o EG Media Investments LLC, ColorArt, 101 Workman Ct., Eureka, MO 63025. Canadian Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC., P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2, Canada. GST #855050365RT001. © 2023 by EG Media Investments LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

Windows on the Water

Check out this month's **online exclusives**.

cottagesandbungalowsmag.com

Home Tour: Cottage Charm, Coastal Locale

Inspiration is easy to find when renovating a 1974 home for a family with four children in Laguna Beach, California. After all, there are few muses better than the large dome of blue SoCal sky above the serenity of the sparkling ocean.

Colorful Coastal Cottages

Beach-loving homeowners take on two seaside home renovations, adding their creative style to a new home and a short-term rental property. Follow their design ideas for inspiration.

Vintage Décor in a Charming Historic Lake Cottage

Look inside this lakehouse gem filled with a treasure trove of vintage décor. The charm, character and construction of old cottages are all qualities cherished by their owners.

The Antique Collector's Lakehouse

Can you keep the antique items you love while embracing new design and architectural styles? That's exactly what Karrie Massee did with her Florida home on Doctors Lake.

Lakeside Charm & Industrial Inspiration

This home sits in a forested lakeside area in Michigan with only a few other houses in the neighborhood. Its owner relished the opportunity to make her cottage feel like home. She set out to make it a place for her guests "to feel like they're always on vacation."

Follow us online on **Facebook, Pinterest** and **Instagram** for inspiration daily!

Announcing an exciting *new collaboration!*

Caron's Beach House + COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS

We are thrilled to create a sea-inspired decor collaboration between Caron's Beach House and *Cottages & Bungalows* magazine for Summer 2023. This is a first design partnership for both of us and we hope that you love what we've curated for you; The Portsmouth Collection.

- Coastal and cottage aesthetics that are super livable all year round.
- Timeless designs that have hints of a charming nautical vibe.
- Look for special pieces that are made in the USA plus fun decor that is artisan inspired.

Shop the collection and receive free shipping on your first order with code: Starboard

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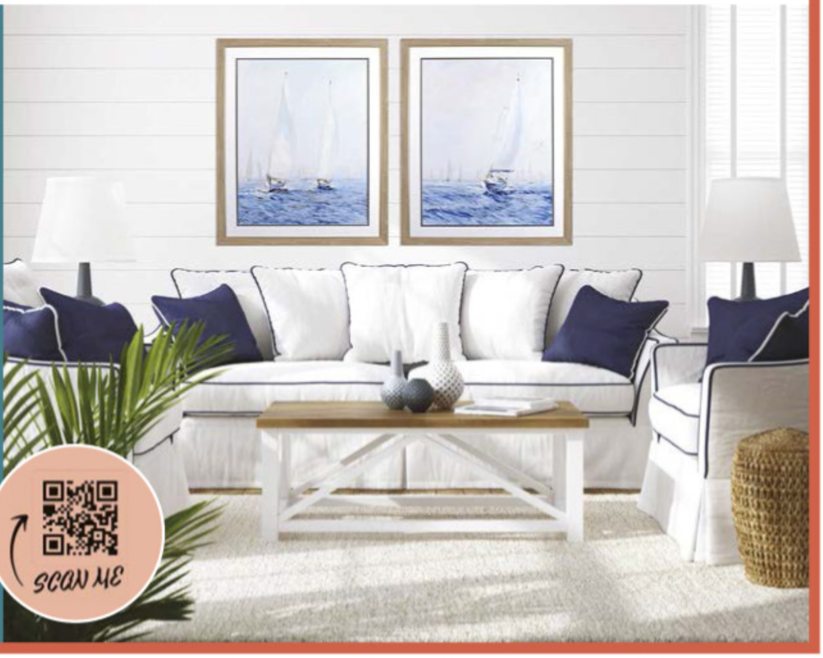

SCAN ME

COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS

Highlights of 2022: *Favorite* Home Tours

With notes on why we love them!

Tour four of the most charming & inspiring homes of the past year

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Fun Facts

- Clovelly was once owned by the Queen of England.
- The main cobbled street is known as Up Along or Down Along and was constructed from large pebbles hauled up from the harbor.
- Author Charles Kingsley lived here and wrote his classic novel *Westward Ho!* in Clovelly.

Quintessential ENGLISH CHARM

This ancient fishing village is a coastal delight.

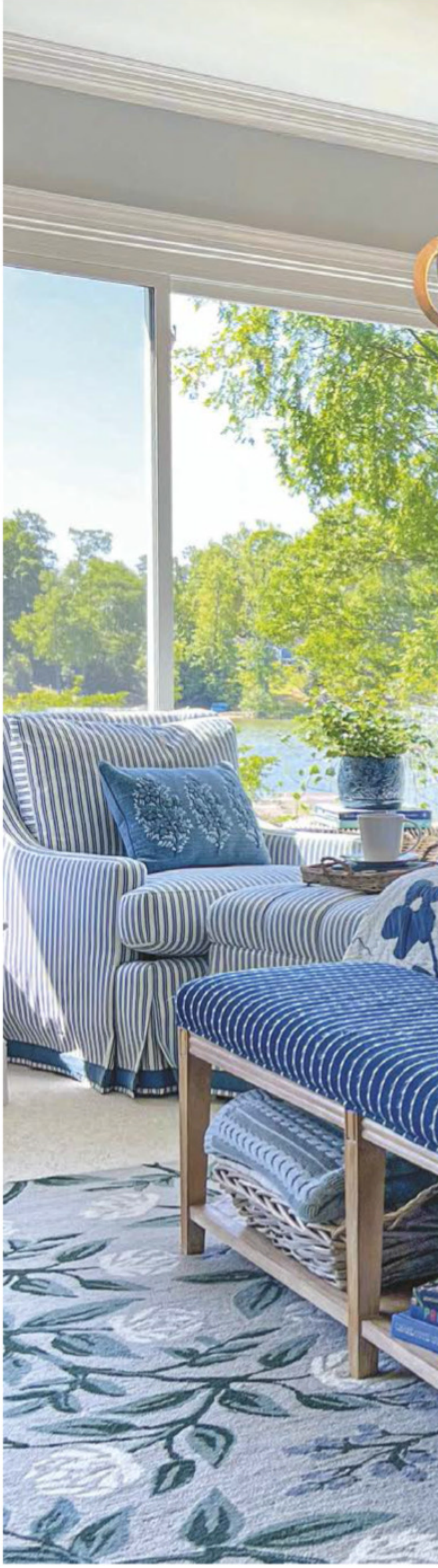
WRITTEN BY KELLY MCMASTER

With its cobblestone streets, a splendid view of Bideford Bay, and donkeys and sleds as standard modes of transportation, Clovelly, on the north Devon coast of England, is a dream come true for those who love the history and charm of white-washed fishing villages.

Perched on a 400-foot cliff, this ancient village with just 83 structures dates back 800 years and has been beautifully preserved by its 300 residents. Visitors can wander through the Court Gardens, charter a boat for fishing excursions, walk along the man-made stone quay, enjoy live music, stroll through the museum or take part in many arts and crafts classes. There's even a Red Lion Inn at the harbor for those who'd like an extended stay.

Tip:

Add your own hanging baskets, window boxes and buntings for delightful color and charm.



Dreamy Blue Bedroom

Surround yourself in soothing lake colors to drift off to sleep in a serene sanctuary.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY LISA ROCCO

Just over four years ago, we moved to the lake to retire and renovate our 1990s waterfront home. What an adventure it has been! Slowly but surely, we have tackled our list of projects that included painting, flooring, landscaping, wallpapering and a full bathroom remodel.

This year, my focus has been our master bedroom: to create a cozy retreat and seating area to enjoy the natural views and have a place to read and begin each day … a bedroom sanctuary!

The first step in designing this space was choosing a wall color that would add a calm and cozy ambiance to the room, giving it a feeling of peace and comfort for unwinding at the end of the day. After painting the walls a soft blue-gray and freshening up the trim and ceiling with bright white, I began changing the outdated light fixtures and searching for the perfect area rug to layer over our carpet until we can replace it with hardwood.

AT HOME ON THE WATER

Spotlight on Lillian August

Lillian August for Hickory White, a member of the Sherrill Furniture Brands family, is a long-established lifestyle brand. What began in the 1980s with Lillian has continued with her two sons and their seamless blending of classic, traditional and modern styles in vibrant colors and patterns has endured. With a vast array of sophisticated product offerings, they make it easy to fulfill their mission statement to "love how you live." To learn more, visit lillianaugust.hickorywhite.com.

Feather Your Bedroom Nest

Lisa shares her essential elements for creating a cozy retreat.

BEDDING

Invest in new linens, pillows, a duvet cover or a comforter. Fresh color, pattern and texture can totally change the look and feel in the room. This is a wonderful way to add a pop of contrasting color. Don't be afraid to mix patterns! They add character and charm.

FURNITURE

Add interest by painting something if you want a change but don't want to replace furnishings. You can find "new to you" pieces at a fraction of the cost at estate sales, thrift stores or consignment shops. Cue a can of paint or sander and new hardware for an inexpensive update. And remember: Nightstands and chests do not have to match!

LIGHTING

Bedroom lighting adds style, functionality and ambiance. Consider a statement chandelier, attractive bedside reading lamps and sconces or just swap out shades for a fun, fresh look. Shades come in a variety of textures, prints and colors for a designer look.

ARTWORK

Wrapped canvas prints, downloadable prints, family photographs and thrifted or vintage art are just a few examples of the many art options for any budget. Art personalizes a room, adds color and conveys your sense of style.

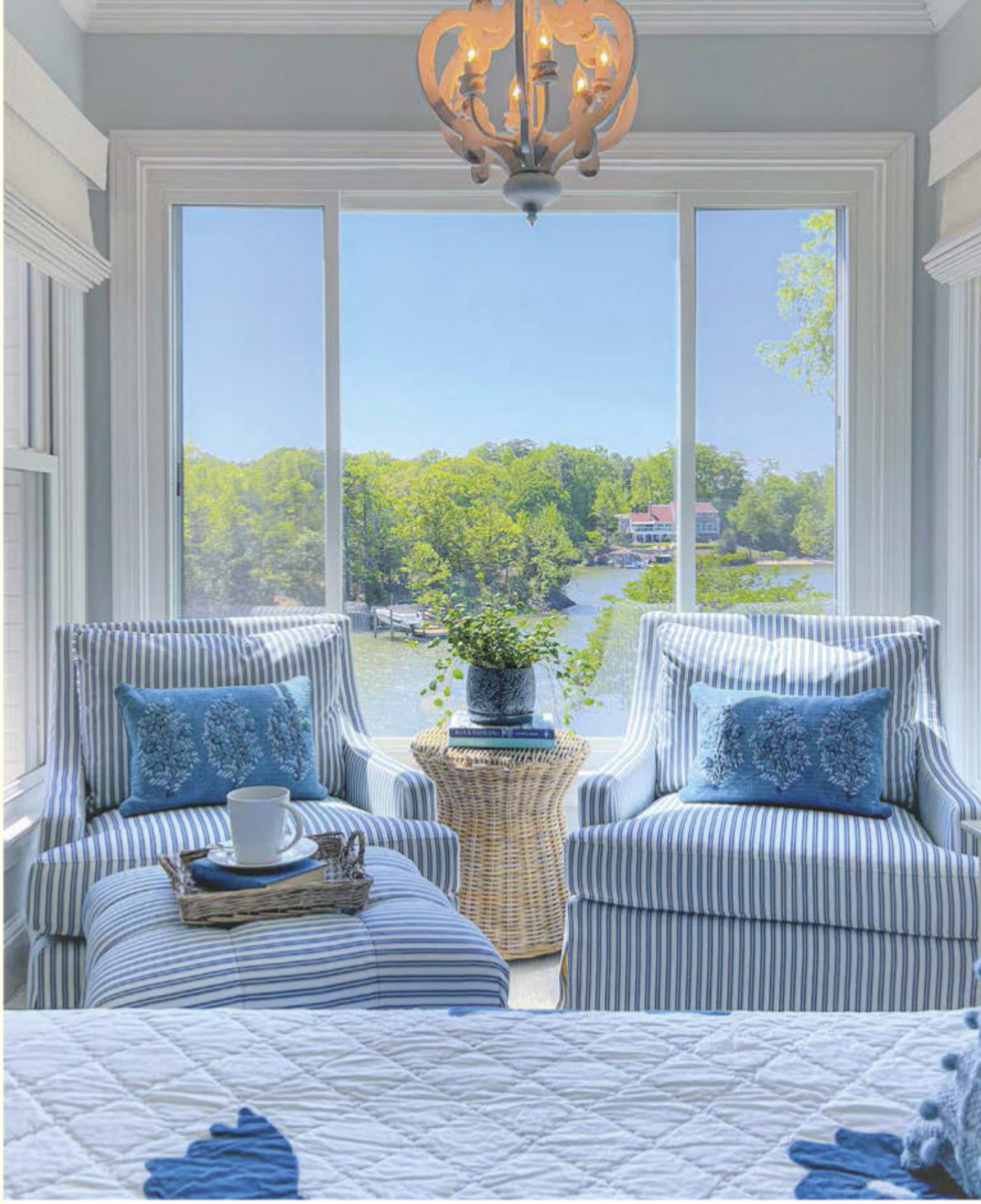
BRING IN ACCENTS

Plants and flowers, whether fresh or faux, breathe new life into a space and add color and coziness. Personal touches, such as photos, collectibles and books, bring a smile and evoke sweet memories. Layer a rug for softness underfoot, to center furnishings, add pattern play and, of course, a pop of color and texture. Add a bench to the end of the bed to help anchor the room and add practicality, storage and style.

I'm in love with my Lillian August chairs and bench! What a great experience from start to finish working with Sherrill Furniture Brands and their team. From chatting with their marketing team to coordinating with their design team, it was a smooth and seamless process for me. This was my first experience designing furniture for my home, and they guided me through the process and made the decisions easy and not overwhelming!

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT SHERRILL….

- Quick turnaround time from design order to delivery.
- High-quality fabrics and trim in a wide array of colors, textures and patterns. You can mix and match to create furniture that fits your home...you are the designer!
- The details! Pleats, tufting, cozy down cushions, accent trims and so many styles to find the perfect fit in your home.
- Superior-quality furniture made at their factory in Hickory, North Carolina.



And finally, the little seating nook is now complete! I designed two cozy swivel chairs and a tufted ottoman with the help of Sherrill Furniture Brands and Lillian August, manufactured in our home state of North Carolina, so near and dear to my heart. The simple, classic white-and-blue striped fabric and touch of trim on the chairs and tufted ottoman bring together the color palette and pattern play in our bedroom so beautifully!

Are you ready for a bedroom refresh or a change for the seasons?

Whether you are considering a complete makeover or need a simple budget-friendly update to elevate your room, I have a few tips for making it pretty and stylish … a dreamy retreat to love in the years to come.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 112

TO SEE MORE OF LISA'S HOME, VISIT HER ON INSTAGRAM **@ASIMPLYSTYLEDNEST**.

CLARA JEAN DESIGN

Clara Jean Design is a mother-daughter duo who create custom designs for home decor, paper goods and fashion. Using a hand crafted approach, they combine both traditional mediums and digital artistry to create their unique compositions. With a portfolio of over 3,000 designs, they continue to push design trends and colorways that transform any surface into a work of art.

Check out our instagram for the latest prints and patterns!
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BORDEN
Before

A Patriotic Presentation

WRITTEN, STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEPHANIE HARKINS

How to style a salute-worthy vignette in your home.

Adding a few patriotic touches to your home during the summer is always fun, but knowing how to do it with style can be a challenge. We asked stylist and vintage reseller Stephanie Harkins of In with the Old Goods for her insights.

I've chosen a Fourth of July summer-camp theme for my vignette. To start, I gathered items in red, white and blue. I also included elements that communicate my story of summer camping, such as thermoses, a picnic basket, a marshmallow tin and the camp stool.

Next, I decided which risers I would use to display my items. I chose a camp stool and a step stool since they are different heights. I grouped my like items, such as the flags and the thermoses, in odd numbers, and then I layered and overlapped the thermoses to give them more dimension. I also made sure I varied the heights of the items in the vignette. I tucked in the picnic basket for more texture, height and to help tell my camp story. I included flags of all shapes and sizes to make the eye move around the vignette. Parade flags, folded flags and the draped flag tied the theme together and added texture.

Then I picked which items would best display natural elements to bring it to life. The marshmallow tin and thermoses were the perfect vessels for the greenery stems. I put them on opposite sides of the vignette to balance it out.

As you can see in the "before" photo, I left out many of the items I originally thought I wanted to display in my vignette as it would have been overcrowded, unbalanced and looked cluttered had I included them all.

Stephanie's Style Tips for *Creating a Vignette*

DO:

- Find a clear space to create your vignette. Shelves, tops of case goods, counters, coffee tables and entryway tables all make great spots for vignettes.
- Decide on your theme. Holidays, seasons, a specific color scheme and focusing on a favorite design style (i.e., nautical, Boho, cottage farmhouse) or a special item all work well in vignettes.
- Take into consideration the size of the space as well as the scale and number of items you will be displaying.
- Choose a color palette that complements the room it will be in.
- Gather all the items you want for your vignette so you're not running around the house interrupting your creative flow.
- Pick a favorite piece and make that your focal point. Decorate around that special item.
- Tell a story with your vignette: What impression do you want to leave with the observer?
- Add a splash of color to draw the eye in. In a neutral color scheme, a vibrant flower can add just the right touch.
- Include various textures for interest, such as basket weave, matte surfaces, shiny surfaces, fabrics, etc.
- Bring in elements of nature to liven it up. Flowers, branches, pinecones and bird feathers/nests all work well.
- Create layers and vary heights. This helps the eye move around the vignette so all the elements can be admired. If the items you are displaying are of similar heights, use risers such as books to lift them up a bit. Overlap items to add layers.
- Mix old and new items. Antique and vintage items add character that new items may not have.
- Group items in odd numbers. Odd numbers create interest as well as capture your gaze. This helps the eye move around the grouping.
- Edit, edit and edit again. Editing is part of the creative process, so it's completely acceptable to adjust the elements in your vignette multiple times to make it to your liking.
- Practice. The more you practice creating vignettes, the easier they will become!

DON'T:

- Don't let your vignette feel overcrowded or messy. It's ok not to use all the items you've gathered for the vignette.
- Don't be preoccupied with cleaning and tending to other things in the space when trying to create your vignette.
- Don't have things lined up in a row. You want the eye to naturally move throughout the display and take it all in.
- Don't take it too seriously as this will most likely cause your creativity to be stifled.

TO SEE MORE OF STEPHANIE'S CREATIVE PROJECTS, VISIT HER ON INSTAGRAM **@INWITHTHEOLDGOODS**.

1

COMPILED BY KELLY MCMASTER

THE *Great* OUTDOORS

Stylish upgrades for your summer-living spaces.

2

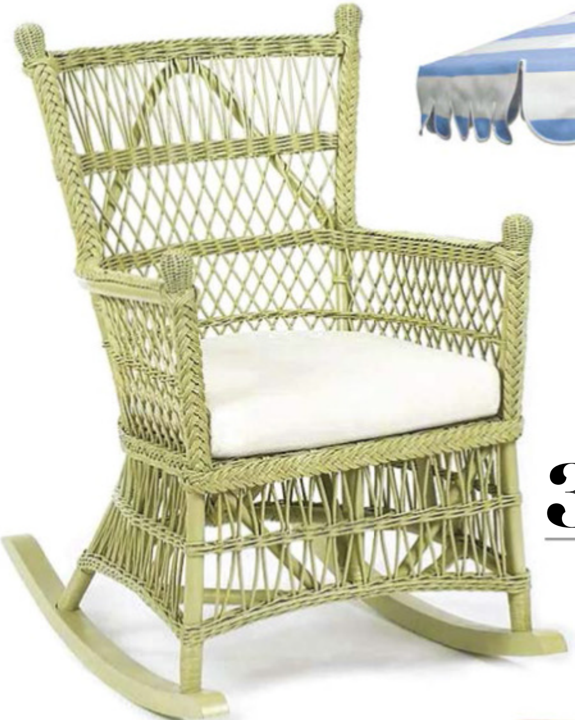
1 **Denali Small Outdoor Sectional With Coffee Table.** Because comfort is everything, SunVilla Home combines smart design with luxurious eco-friendly finishes. Made to easily arrange and rearrange for any occasion, the modular lounge collection features rustproof marine-grade aluminum handwoven with outdoor wicker and topped with machine-washable, Italian outdoor fabric. $2,899. Visit **sunvillahome.com**.

2 **Seaside Beach Chair.** The perfect chair to take to the beach, lake or pool. The adjustable back and arm rests make it super comfortable. Backpack straps when the chair folds up make this chair easy to take with you anywhere you go, in three colors, $299. Visit **brookeandlou.com**.

3 **Beehive Rocker.** The Mainly Baskets Home Classic Collection is rich in history and a timeless addition to your home. Shown in Meadow Green; available in 10 colors, $755. Visit **mainlybaskets.com**.

4 **Meredith Umbrella.** From your backyard to the beach, this pretty umbrella is suited for all summertime settings. The scalloped edge adds the perfect classic detail while protecting you from the sun, $315. Visit **brookeandlou.com**.

5 **Figure Eight Infinity-Knot Napkin Rings.** The figure-eight knot is used in boating as a stopper knot as well as to represent the unity of two entities, like the unity of a couple in marriage. Sold in sets of four of same color, $18. Visit **mysticknotwork.com**.



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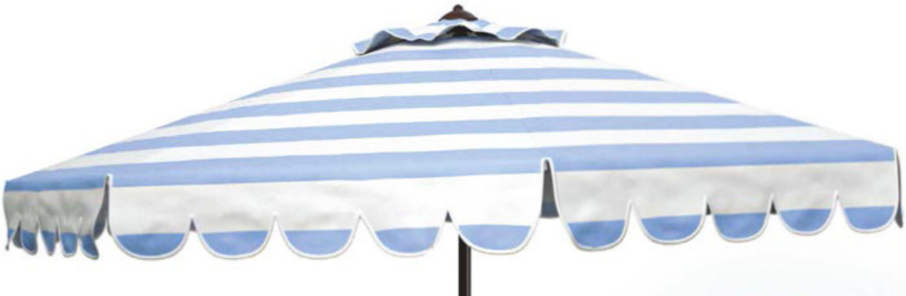

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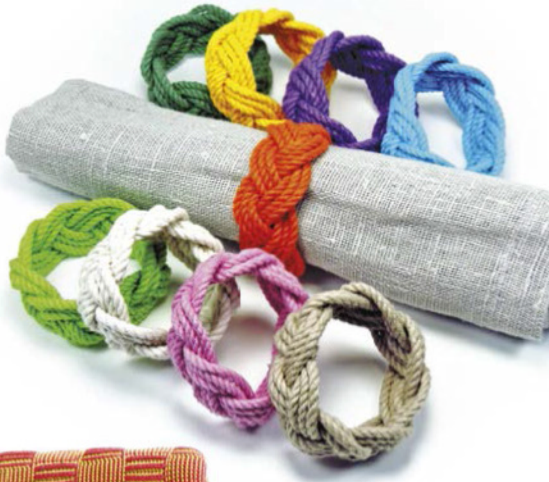

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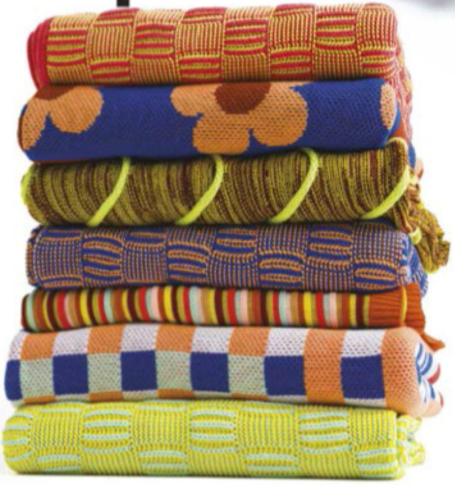

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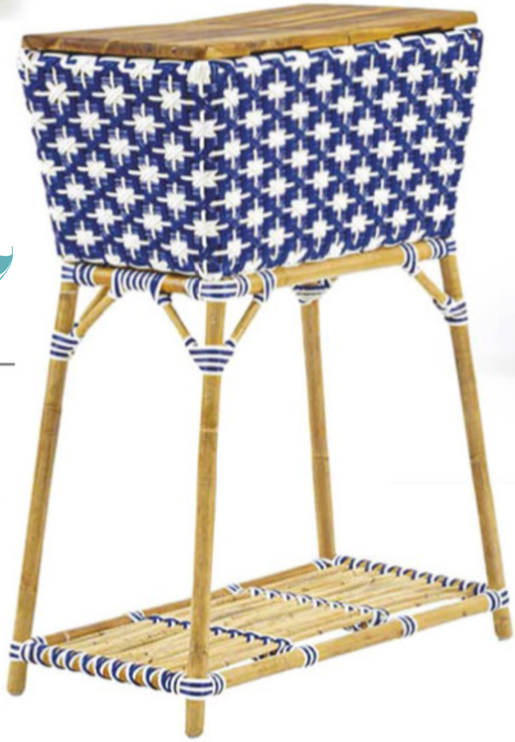

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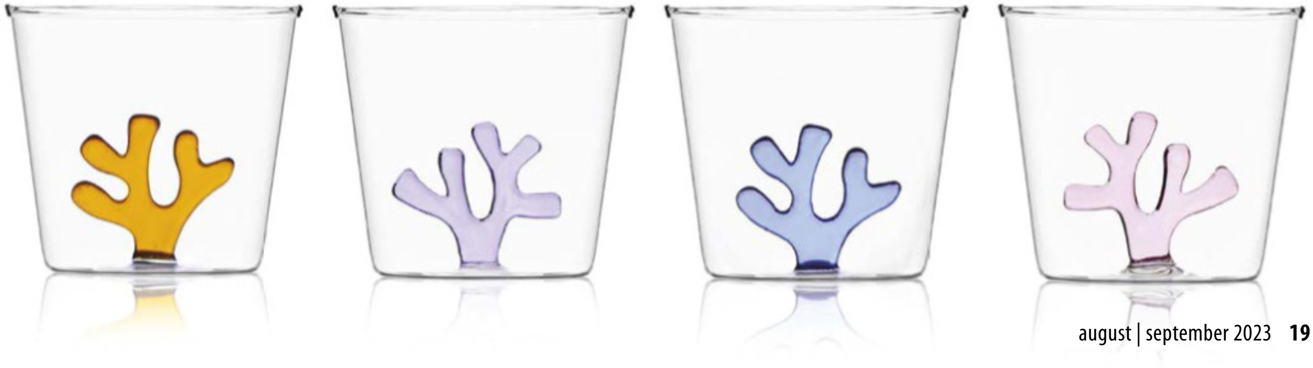


6 **Chunky Knit Throws.** Perfect as a beach blanket, picnic spread or cuddling by the bonfire, these 50″ x 60″ beauties are reversible, $158 each. Visit **verloopknits.com**.

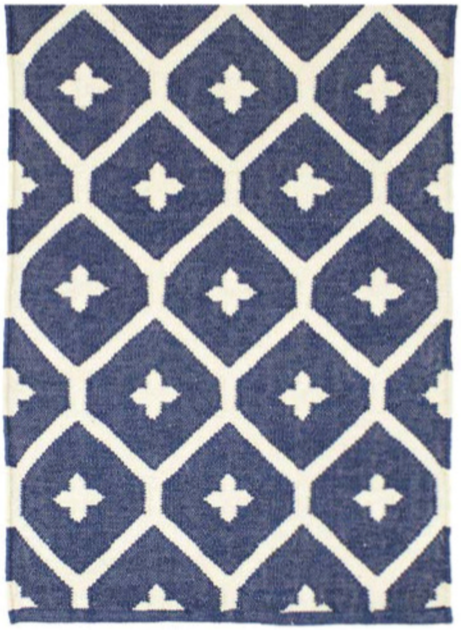
7 **Sandbar Party Bucket.** This multipurpose piece features a teak cutting-board top and a removable galvanized steel bucket to keep your beverages chilled in style, $898. Visit **cailinicoastal.com**.

8 **Whimsical Tumblers.** All-purpose glasses are great for making a glass of water, coffee or a cocktail a lot more fun. Set of four, $100. Visit **sprezznyc.com**.

9

10

- 9 **Owen Outdoor Sofa.** This all-weather sofa showcases beautiful lines. It instantly warms up a space with its worry-free AluRattan frame, $5,378. Visit **brookeandlou.com**.
- 10 **Hanging Patio Light.** The patio series blends the durability of marine-grade nautical lighting with a more minimalist design for a traditional, non-corrosive ceiling light, from $395. Visit **shiplights.com**.
- 11 **Rosemary Indoor/Outdoor Rug in Navy.** Featuring a vintage-inspired pattern, this durable indoor/outdoor weave is a gorgeous addition to your high-traffic areas, in nine sizes, from $174. Visit **brookeandlou.com**.
- 12 **Juliska Melamine Dining Pieces.** Irresistibly pretty and wonderfully practical, these shatterproof pieces can be enjoyed at the breakfast table or on a picnic blanket, from $24. Visit **brookeandlou.com**.
- 13 **Refillable Mosquito Repellent Candle.** The reusable vessel comes with a bamboo lid and a candle made from soothing essential oils that repel mosquitoes for up to 30 hours, available in three colors, $29.99. Visit **amazon.com**.
- 14 **Searow Outdoor Ceiling Fan with LED Light - 54 Inch.** Ultra-durable WeatherMax® corrosion resistance holds up in harsh outdoor weather. Wet-rated for use in outdoor spaces exposed to extreme weather elements, $549. Visit **hunterfan.com**.



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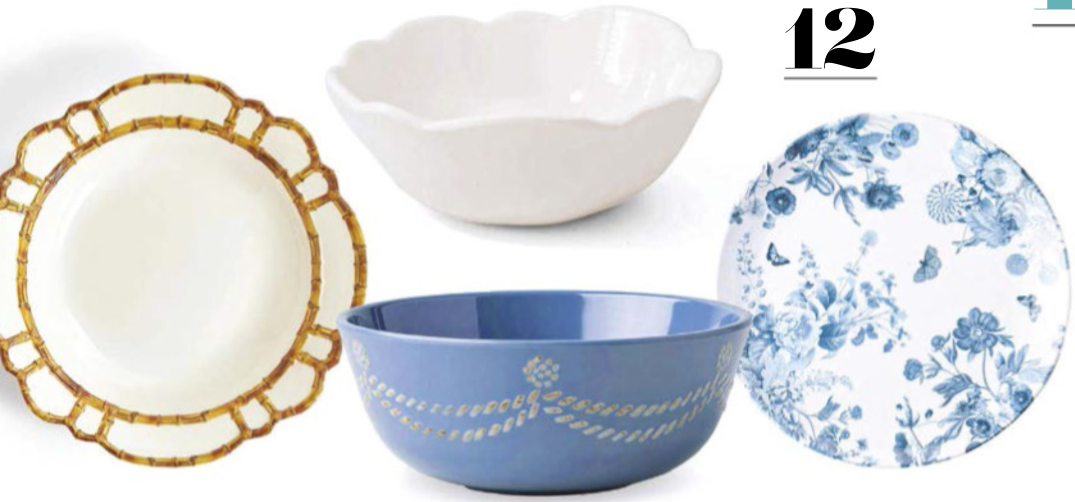

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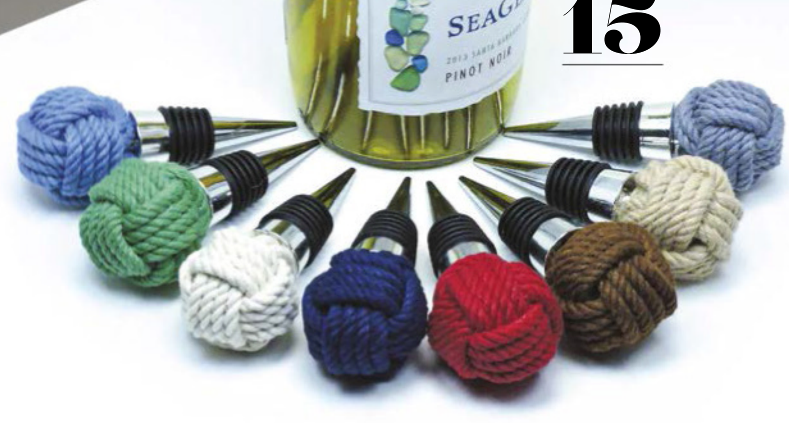

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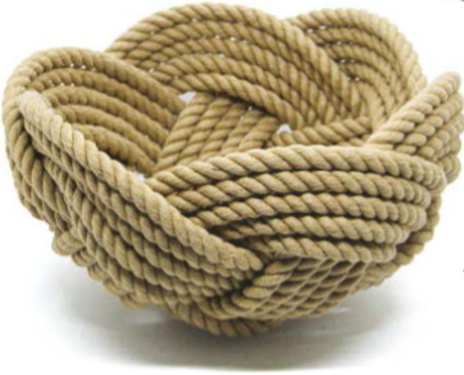

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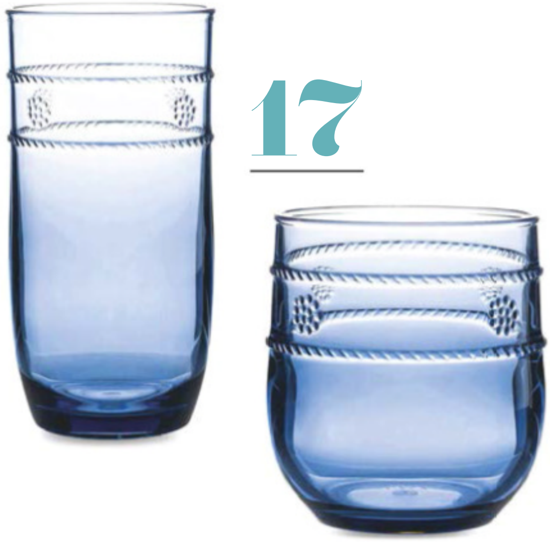


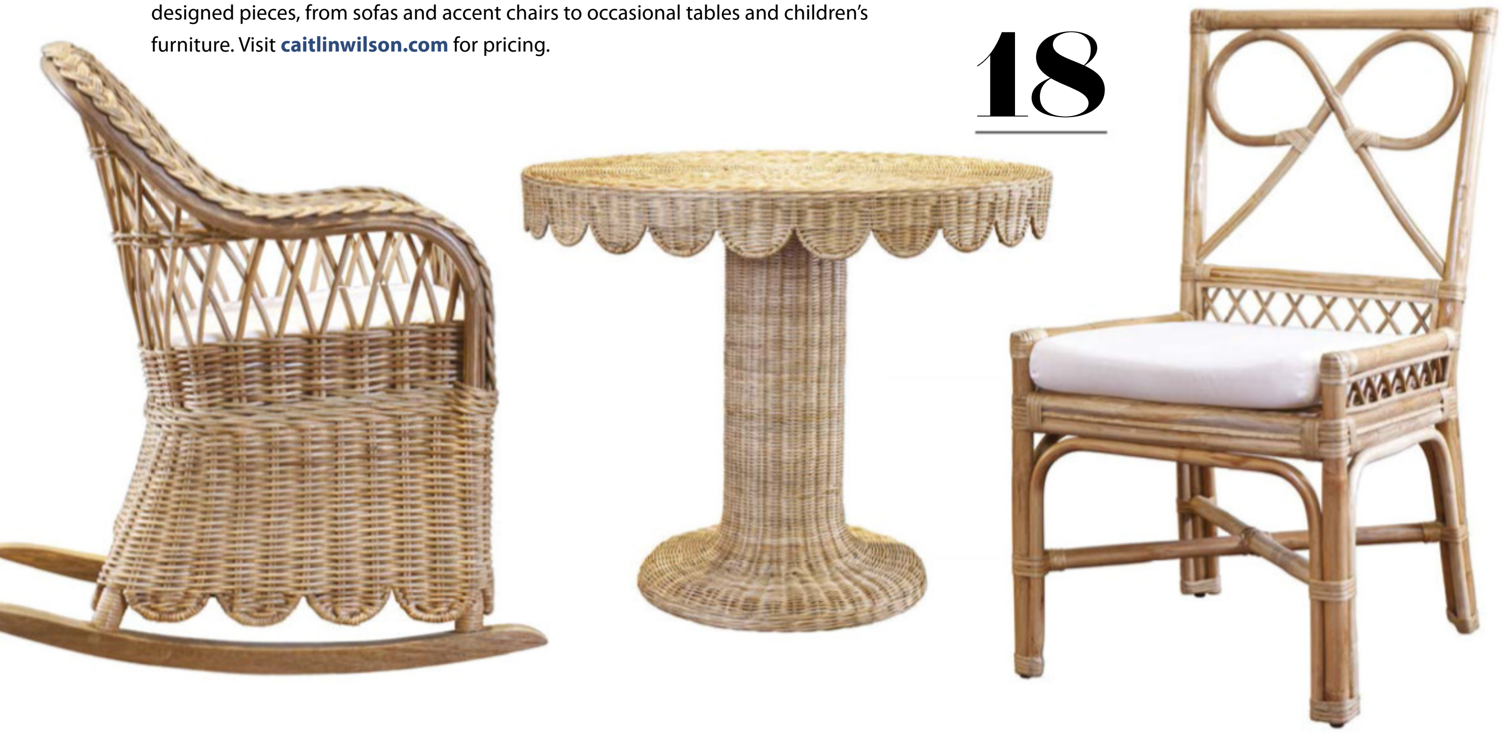
15 **Nautical Monkey-Fist Bottle Stopper.** Here's a fun bottle stopper for all your summer get-togethers. Available in eight colors and in single or bulk quantity, from $22.50. Visit **mysticknotwork.com**.

16 **Celtic Knotted Basket.** This cute, hand-tied basket made of hard laid custom cotton rope measures 8″ across and 5″ high plus handle, $88. Visit **mysticknotwork.com**.

17 **Juliska Isabella Acrylic Tumblers.** Chic yet casual, these dreamy blue tumblers are the perfect, long-lasting barware pieces for any occasion, reminiscent of days spent pool- or beach-side with a cool beverage in hand. Large $24, small $20. Visit **brookeandlou.com**.

18 **Monaco Skirted Edge Table, Side Chair, Rocker.** The newly released Monaco Collection by Caitlin Wilson for Mainly Baskets Home offers sophisticated, thoughtfully designed pieces, from sofas and accent chairs to occasional tables and children's furniture. Visit **caitlinwilson.com** for pricing.

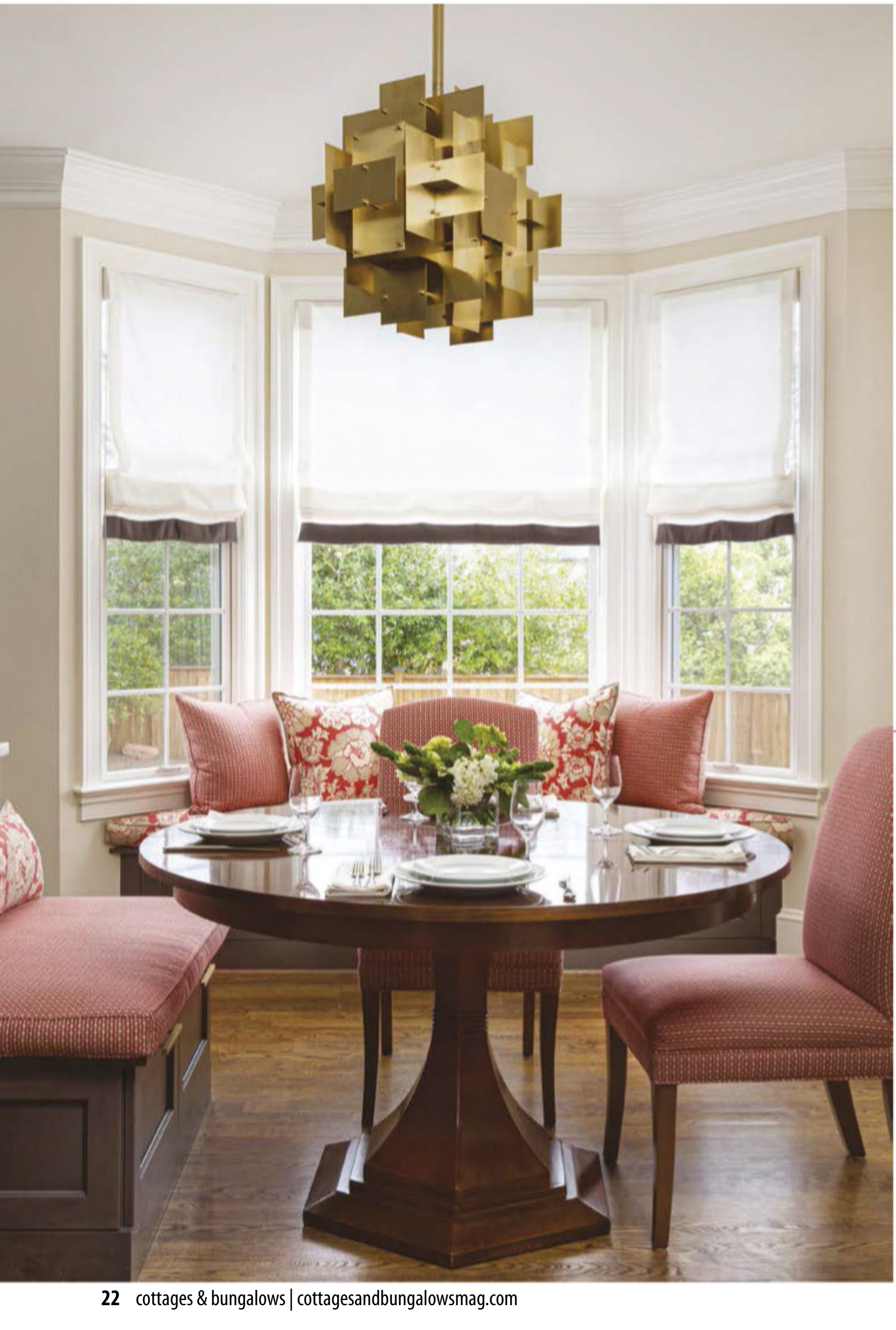
18



Beautiful Banquettes

Take this tour through a variety of cottage kitchens to see how you might incorporate this fun and fashionable design feature.

WRITTEN BY LAURA SHIMKO



Cozy, cute and inviting, banquettes are a great addition to any cottage kitchen, invoking an Old World feel and brimming with charm. The term originates from the French word for an upholstered bench built into a wall. The French aristocracy made it fashionable to include this bench in dining areas to create an intimate, comfortable seating arrangement and the trend has been popular ever since.

There are many ways this design element can be implemented to complement cottage style. We asked several top-notch kitchen designers for some ideas and inspiration.

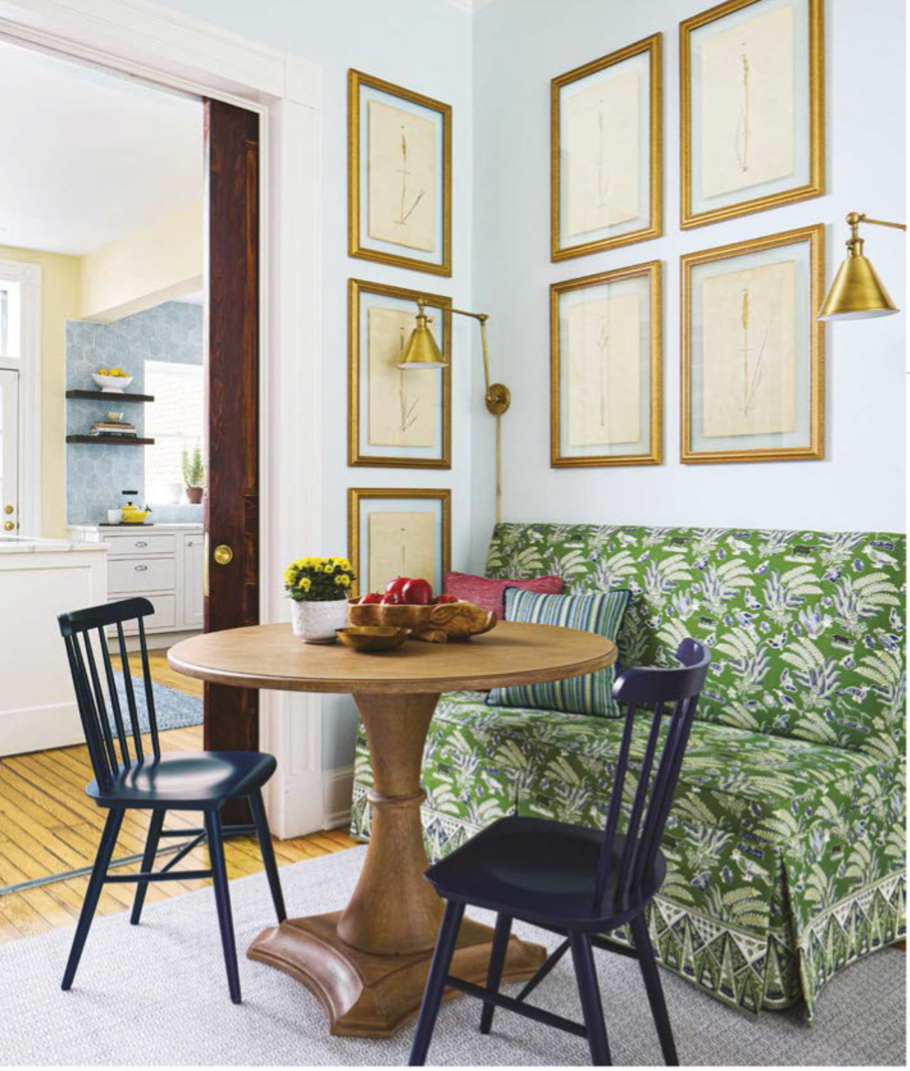
CLASSIC & CHIC

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENN VERRIER

- **Designer:** Annie Elliott
- **Location:** Chevy Chase, Maryland
- **Design Highlight:** The Jonathan Adler Puzzle chandelier

Tip: "A corner banquette can create a cozy nook in a living room, for example, or a long banquette offers a lot of casual seating in a teenager's game room. Some people can sit and chat while others have a rousing game of air hockey or foosball!"

This banquette resulted from a kitchen renovation in this classical style home. "Placing a banquette at the short end of the large island was a wonderful way to anchor the dining area in a tidy, space-saving way," designer Annie Elliott says. "To soften the charcoal gray cabinetry, we chose a happy red and beige floral fabric by Anna French for the cushions and pillows."



COZY VICTORIAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIP DAWKINS

- **Designer:** Annie Elliot
- **Location:** Downtown Washington D.C.
- **Design Highlight:** Incorporating the island into the banquette design.

Tip: "Remember that banquettes aren't just for kitchens and breakfast rooms! Because they have a tiny footprint, banquettes are terrific anywhere you need to be space conscious."

This 1890s Victorian townhouse had received several updates throughout the decades, including merging the kitchen and dining spaces. This left only the kitchen island as a space to eat. Designer Annie Elliot decided to carve a small space out of the adjacent living room to create a new dining space. "The banquette keeps the area tight against the wall; the dining table doesn't take over the living room or block the doorway to the kitchen," she says.

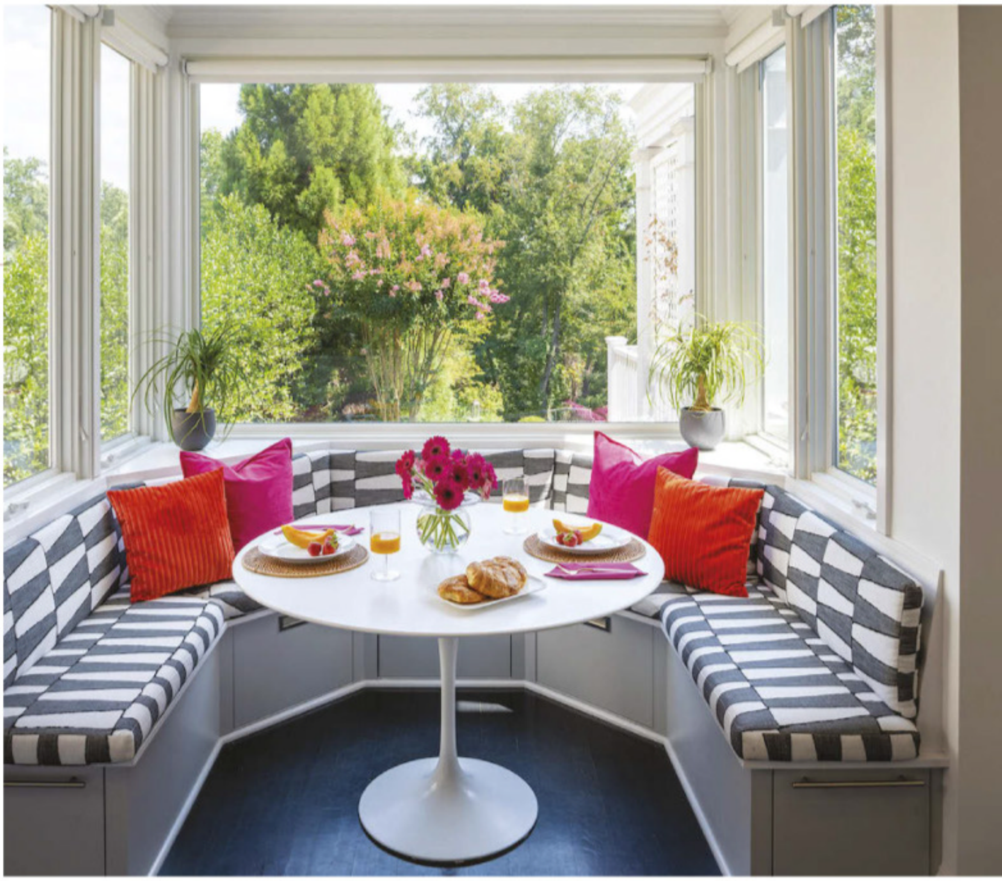
ROOM WITH A VIEW

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN COLE

- **Architect:** Sean Mullin, AIA, Anthony Wilder Design/Build
- **Location:** Washington D.C.
- **Design Highlight:** Large windows without grilles or mulls allow for unobstructed views.

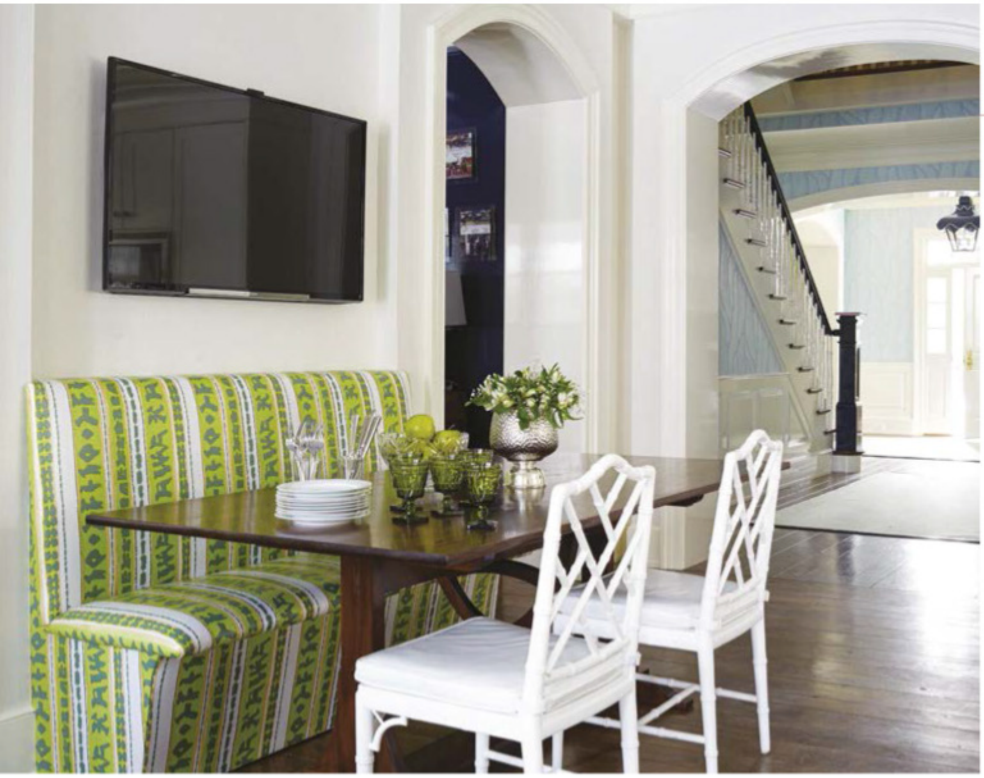
Tip: "Maximize the storage that can be realized with proper banquette design!"

One of the main goals of this kitchen renovation was to maximize the functionality of the space without sacrificing the style. The banquette allowed for extra storage opportunities as well as the perfect seating spot. "We wanted to maximize the amount of seating and storage in the bay window," Sean says. "Our goal was to increase the depth of the bay and enhance the views of the beautifully landscaped backyard."



GOOD TO *GATHER*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIP DAWKINS



- **Designer:** Kelley Proxmire
- **Location:** Chevy Chase, MD
- **Design Highlight:** Green vinyl fabric seating cushions, China Seas "Abaco Stripe," serve as a fun and functional pop of color.

Tip:"Consider who will be sitting in this space, such as small children, teenagers, or adults. The size of the table should be in proportion to the banquette."

What do you get when a large family needs a functional eating space in an old home? A total gut and renovation that keeps the character of the original design intact while allowing for needed updates. In this case, designer Kelley Proxmire utilized the versatility of a banquette to meet the design goals of her clients. "This family has five children and is a very active household; seating flexibility was a must," she says. "The banquette was designed without arms for to easily slip in and out of the space."

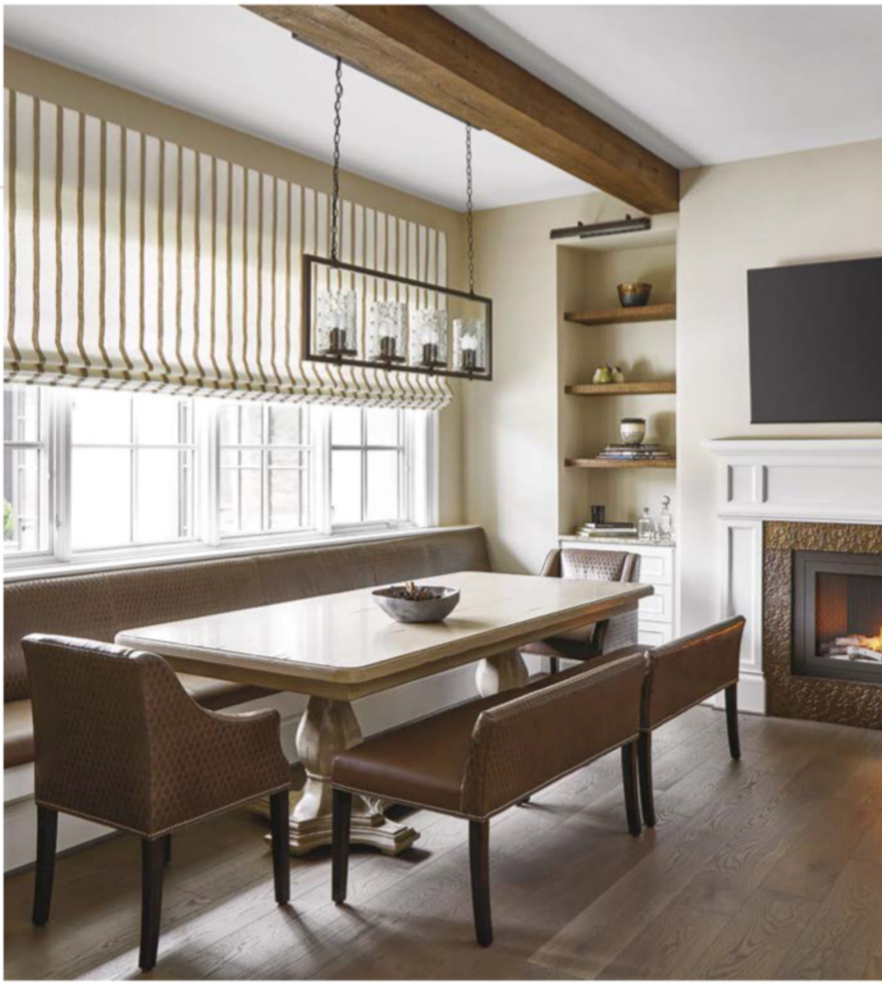
GOING *CUSTOM*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG POWERS

- **Designer:** Tracy Morris
- **Location:** Great Falls, Virginia
- **Design Highlight:** "We created a 'split' bench as the outer seating. The pieces are on wheels and can be 'opened' to accommodate guests."

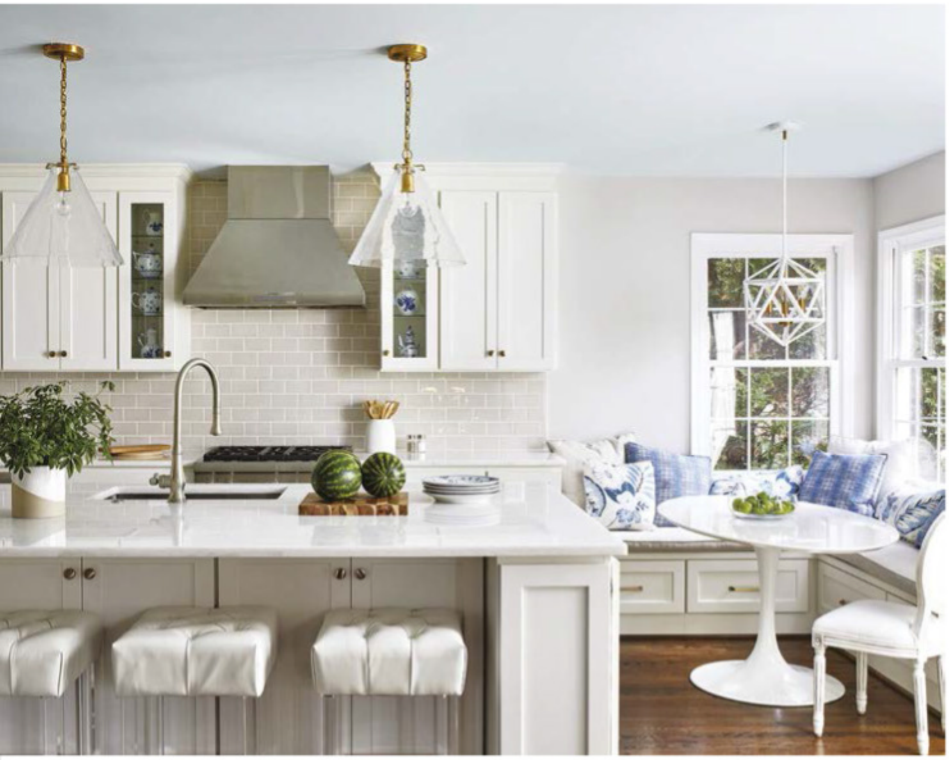
Tip: "Banquettes are permanent, so make sure you want to keep a long seating area in that space. If you have any doubt that the space may change, standard chairs may be a better fit for you. If you have lots of family members and need an additional homework or reading spot, a banquette may be the perfect fit!"

Choosing to customize when building a new home is a terrific way to get the design exactly as you want for your family's needs. When the homeowners of this elegant Virginia home reached out to Tracy Morris for design help, they had already lived in several homes and decided they did not want or need a dining room. "We created a 'Hearth' room with a fireplace and seating for twelve," Tracy says. "This allows the homeowners to sit at the table daily. When a larger group needs seating, they could easily fill in the banquette." There is a storage cabinet next to the space to provide functionality. "The cabinet faces the table and allows our clients to access dishes, placemats and other items to ease serving," she says.



SMART *STORAGE*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



- **Design team:** Case Architects and Remodelers – Michael O'Hearn (Project Developer), Melissa Wood (Designer), Elizabeth Shepard (Architect), Neil Martin (Project Manager)
- **Location:** Silver Spring, MD
- **Design Highlight:** Extra deep cabinets allow for extra storage space.

Tip: "When adding in a banquette, adding storage within the bench itself is ideal."

The homeowners of this traditional colonial home wanted a more casual space for eating that was functional but also matched their style. "The clients really just wanted to have a space that was well designed and inviting for entertainment purposes, but also wanted thoughtful touches added throughout, such as glass cabinetry to display their fine China," designer Melissa Wood says. "We decided on drawer storage for this particular banquette due to the fact that we knew the clients wanted to purchase custom pillows and cushions to go on top; therefore, with drawer storage, obviously there is no need to remove all of the pillows, cushions, etc. in order to access the storage."seating flexibility was a must," she says. "The banquette was designed without arms for to easily slip in and out of the space."

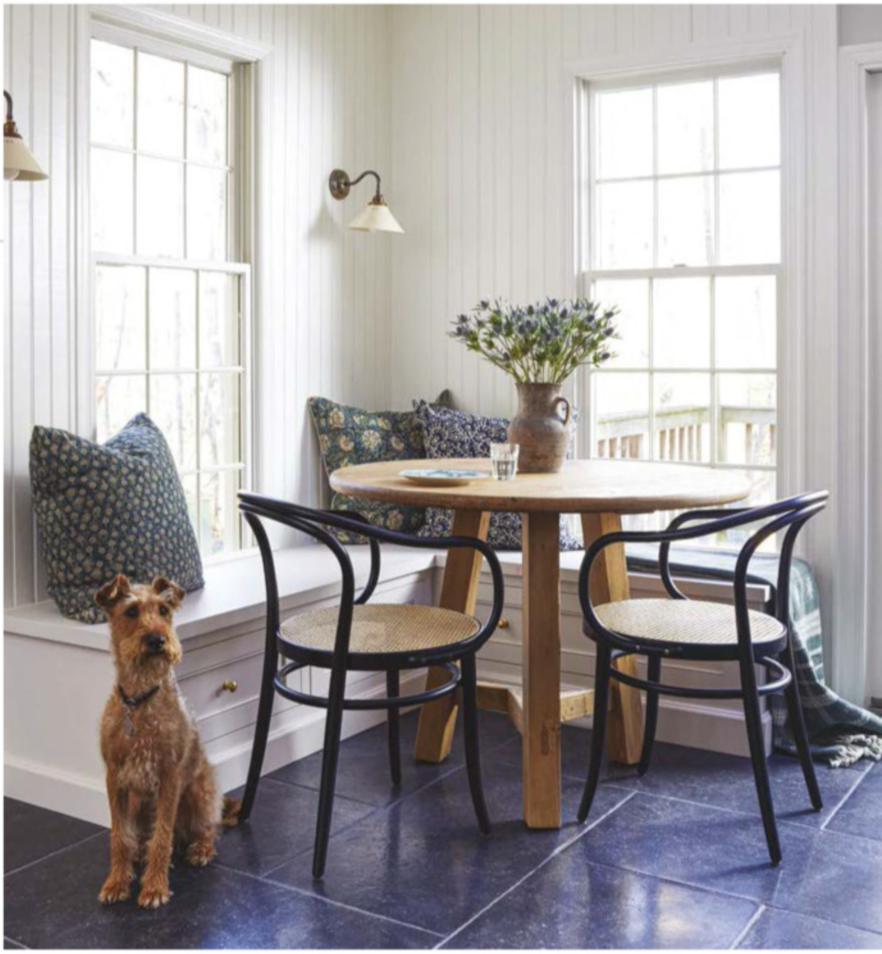
OLD WORLD, *NEW KITCHEN*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIP DAWKINS

- **Designers:** Sara Swabb, Storie Creative & Tanya Smith-Shiflett, Custom Kitchen & Bath (cabinetry)
- **Location:** Oakton, Virginia
- **Design Highlight:** Two windows bring natural light into the cozy nook.

Tip: "If you need storage, be sure to add drawers or a lift-top; if you are looking to curl up, go for a fully upholstered option."

Total renovations are sometimes necessary to get the exact look and functionality you want in your home. In this kitchen, the homeowners opted for a complete redo, including replacing existing flooring and cabinetry, and adding in a banquette. "The client wanted a cozy spot for their family for breakfasts and dinners -- a space outside of the formal dining room, and alongside the beautiful forest landscape of their backyard," designer Sara Swabb says. "Our vision for this space was to incorporate Old World handmade elements and the European lifestyle that our clients adopted during their time living abroad."



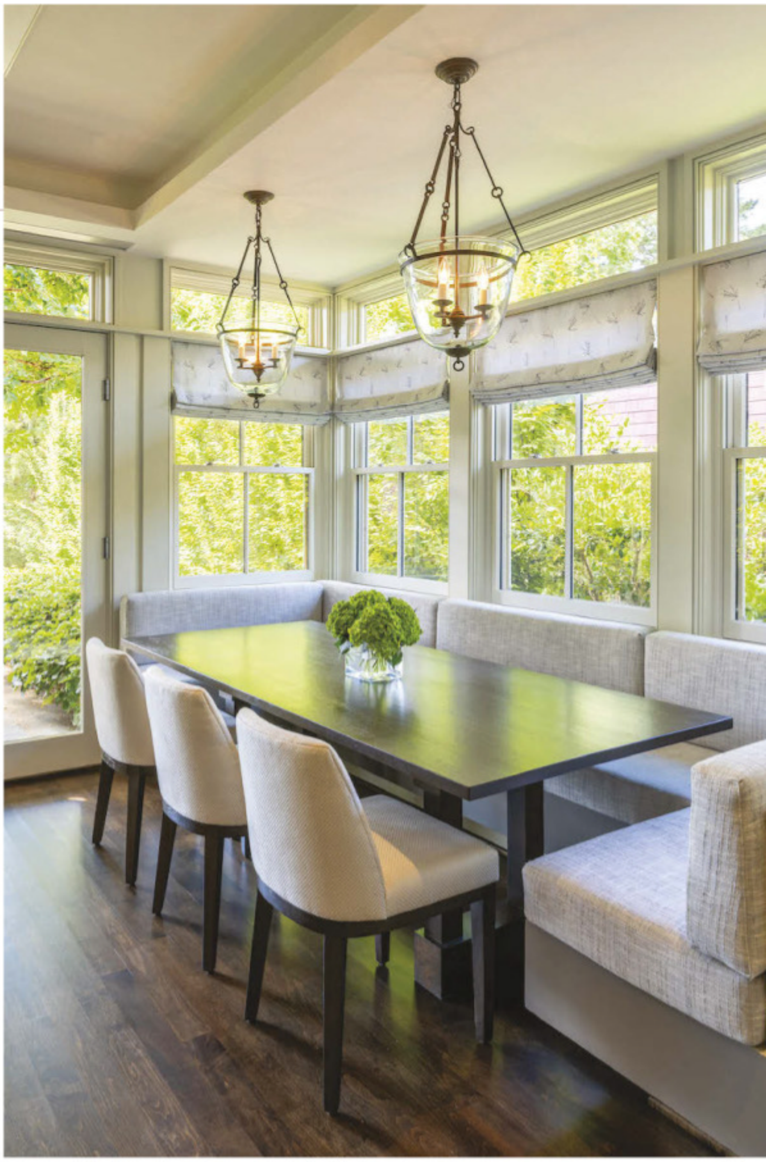
DOUBLE *DUTY*

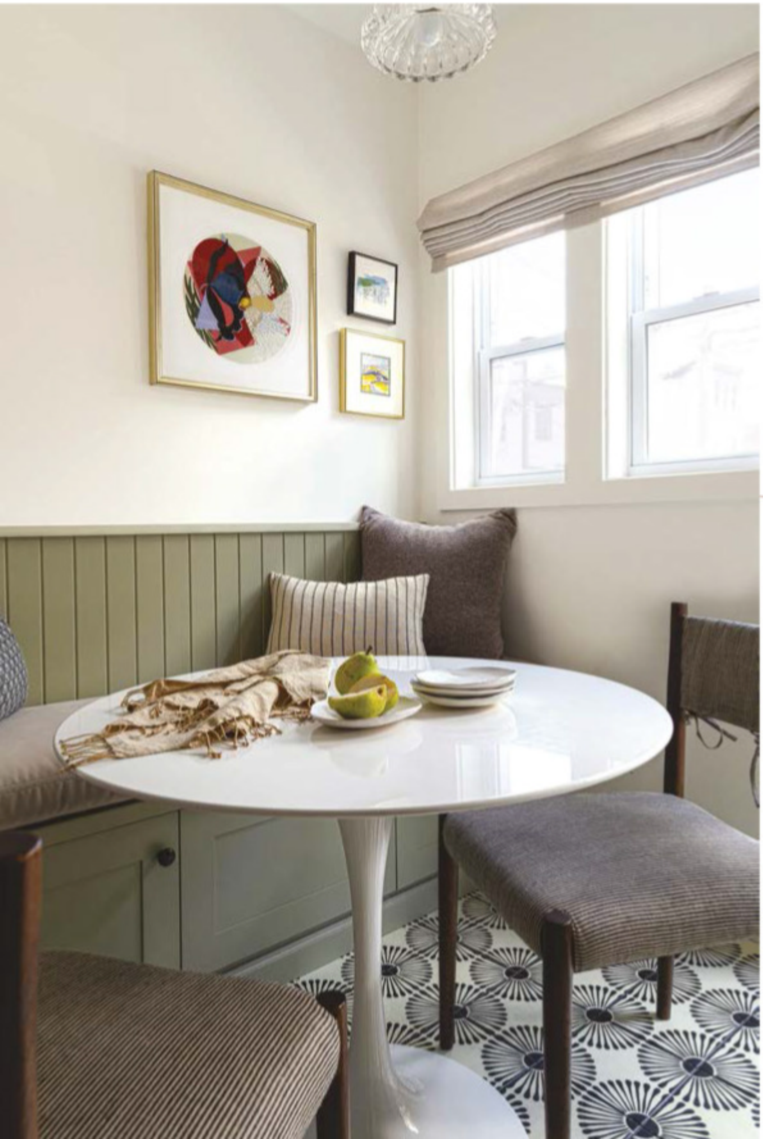
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN COLE

- **Designer:** Sydney Markus, Anthony Wilder Design/Build
- **Location:** Chevy Chase, Maryland
- **Design Highlight:** The cushion backs are tailored to be deeper at the bottom to increase comfort.

Tip: "Because banquettes face high traffic and inevitable spills, the fabric for the cushions should be highly durable. I recommend selecting darker colors in an indoor/outdoor fabric because of its durability."

When the homeowners of this transitional-style house became empty nesters, they decided it was time for a refresh to meet the needs of this new phase in their life. "The clients often work in the kitchen, so we selected a banquette to enhance the overall functionality," designer Sydney Markus says. The banquette not only serves as a place to eat and gather, but also as a workspace and desk. Careful and thoughtful details tie the banquette to the overall design of the space. "We matched the banquette base to the kitchen island to create synergy between the two," she says. "The fabric we selected for the cushions was inspired by, and ties into, the custom mosaic backsplash."





LIVING LUXE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREL ESTELLE

- **Designer:** Sara Swabb, Storie Collective & Tanya Smith-Shiflett, Custom Kitchen & Bath (cabinetry)
- **Location:** Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.
- **Design Highlight:** This tulip table allows for ease sliding in and out.

Tip: "If you're considering a wood bench with storage, we'd recommend a luxe or patterned fabric; the low yardage requirement for these cushions lets you spend a little more on the fabric."

The addition of a breakfast room in this 2,000-square-foot, Federal-style home allowed for more storage and seating opportunities for the family of five. "Storage is at a premium in this home, so we included storage in the banquette while adding a luxe fabric bench cushion for added coziness," designer Sara Swabb says. In addition to function, the design team worked to ensure the look and feel of the space also matched the homeowners' needs. "We softened the storage structures with a soft green paint along with textiles—upholstered wood chairs, linen window treatments and cushions."

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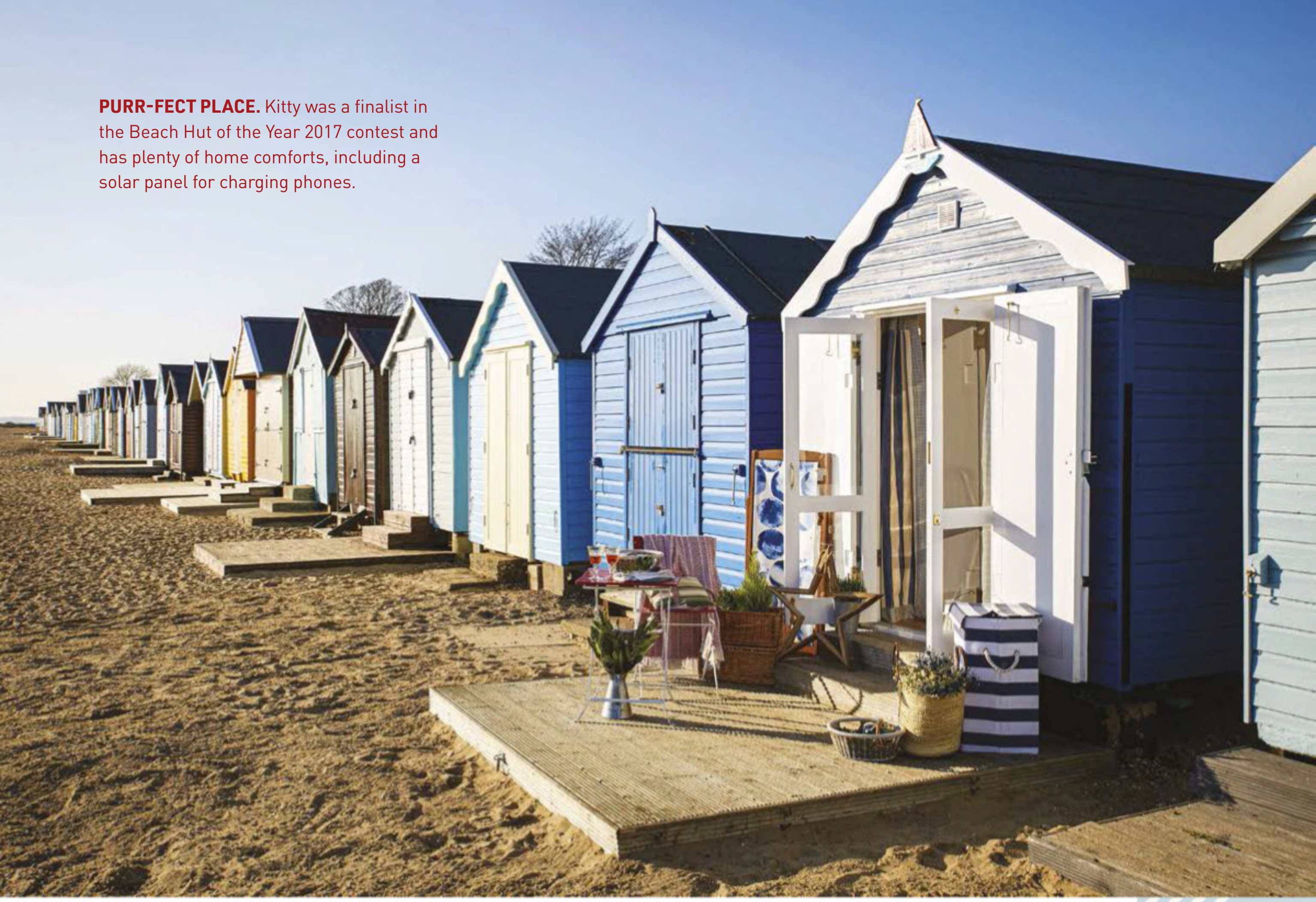
BEACH HUTS *for Rent*

See how two friends turned tiny shelters into great vacation retreats.

STORY PROVIDED BY THE CONTENTED NEST
STYLING BY SARA BIRD
PHOTOGRAPHED BY DAN DUCHARS

Kitty

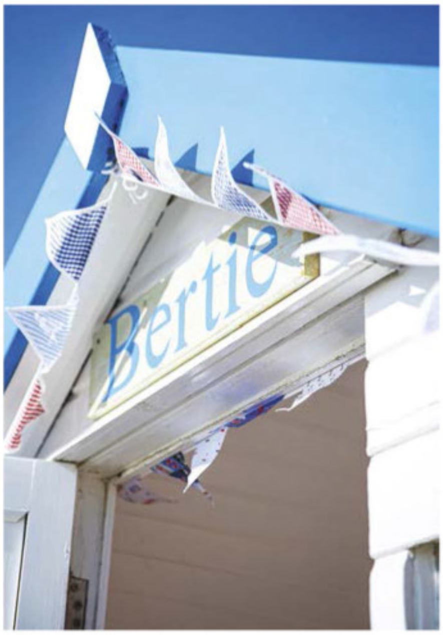


PURR-FECT PLACE. Kitty was a finalist in the Beach Hut of the Year 2017 contest and has plenty of home comforts, including a solar panel for charging phones.

Rows of colorful beach huts dotting the coastline is a quintessential British seaside view and there are more than 450 of these huts lining this section of the Mersea Island coast. Local resident Jane Ashmore used to look at them longingly, thinking she would never be able to afford one. Her eventual purchase provided not only plenty of fun-filled days while her children were small, but now that they have flown the nest it has grown into an exciting business.

"The huts are quite an investment, but when a friend wanted to sell hers back in 1999, she gave me first refusal knowing how much I wanted one,'" Jane explains. "It really would have been out of my reach had my mum not stepped in to help share the cost," she adds.

THE LITTLE
BEACH HUT
COMPANY.


Bertie

Bertie's cream teas
Bertie

| **BOTTOM LEFT** | **THRIFTY FINDS.** The table and chairs for Kitty were a great find at a local thrift shop. "We've got some good thrift shops on the island. We also use eBay and some new bits came from a local shop, Poop Deck," Jane says.

| **BOTTOM RIGHT** | **LEFTOVERS PLEASE.** The oak countertop was an off-cut retrieved from a skip; it just needed a bit of sanding and waxing. The same people had some leftover tiles that also made it into this kitchen scheme.

| RIGHT | CLEAN AND BRIGHT. Damp weather and sea salt are tough on paintwork, so the interiors are painted with exterior grade paint. White walls are easy maintenance and provide a simple backdrop for bright furnishings and accessories.

| OPPOSITE | READY TO PLAY. The beach huts are well-stocked with chairs, parasols and even the essential bucket and spade.

The purchase of Betty, as the hut came to be known, was an instant hit. "We'd go down after school, with my husband joining us after work, and we'd have a fish and chips supper on the beach," Jane recalls. In summer, we'd take the kids down there in their pajamas and not come home until late, putting them straight to bed. It is just so beautiful there and it was such an idyllic time."

BUILDING A NEW BETTY

As the children grew older, Betty got used less and less. She had always been well-maintained, but the harsh coastal elements took their toll and by 2015, a combination of damp, rotten timber and woodworm meant it was more viable to rebuild rather than continue to patch her up.

"I wanted to keep her the same, so the new Betty was built to be exactly the same as the old one," Jane says. Fortunately, there is no planning permission needed for rebuilding a hut. "The council owns the land; you just have to tell them you are going to rebuild and that's fine," Jane explains.

Once Jane's children had grown up, Betty was often loaned to friends and then friends of friends, so Jane set up a Facebook business page and began to rent her out—a side hustle that grew organically into a full-fledged business. "About a year in, my business partner, Jayne Eyers, approached me," Jane says. The two knew each other as their sons—two Toms—were both at the same school. Jayne had a beach hut called Bertie that was in need of a lot of TLC. "She suggested that we join forces and The Little Beach Hut Company was born," Jane says.

PEGGY
TEA TEA
COF
A DAY AT THE
BEACH
RESTORES
The soul

ONCE, TWICE, THREE TIMES. The butler's sink had been repurposed as an herb planter in Jayne's garden, but was scrubbed clean and put back into service at the beach huts.

THE BEACH HUTS COME WITH GUEST COMFORTS, *including tea, coffee, chairs, parasols and toys for little ones.*

LIFE
BEACH
Welcome to the Beach
SEA SAND SUN
TIME
BEACH RULES
FEEL THE BREEZE
RELAX
THE LITTLE BEACH HUT COMPANY

STARTING SMALL. The individual decorating schemes start with a simple pillow or a piece of fabric—something that goes on to inspire the whole scheme of the hut.

MAKING THEIR SKILLS SHINE

One of the strengths in partnering up is the different skill sets it brings to a business. Jane used to own an interiors business, so she has a great eye for design as well as the practical skills to implement her ideas: She is a magician with a paintbrush and sewing machine. Jayne had worked as a private chef, so she introduced a catering service, delivering food to order in wicker baskets. Both aspects are key to the success of the business.

The huts are decorated with a vintage vibe that suits the British seaside theme. Jane is a keen upcycler, making use of the good thrift shops in the area and sites such as eBay. "I do the sewing myself and have a friend that helps out," she says.

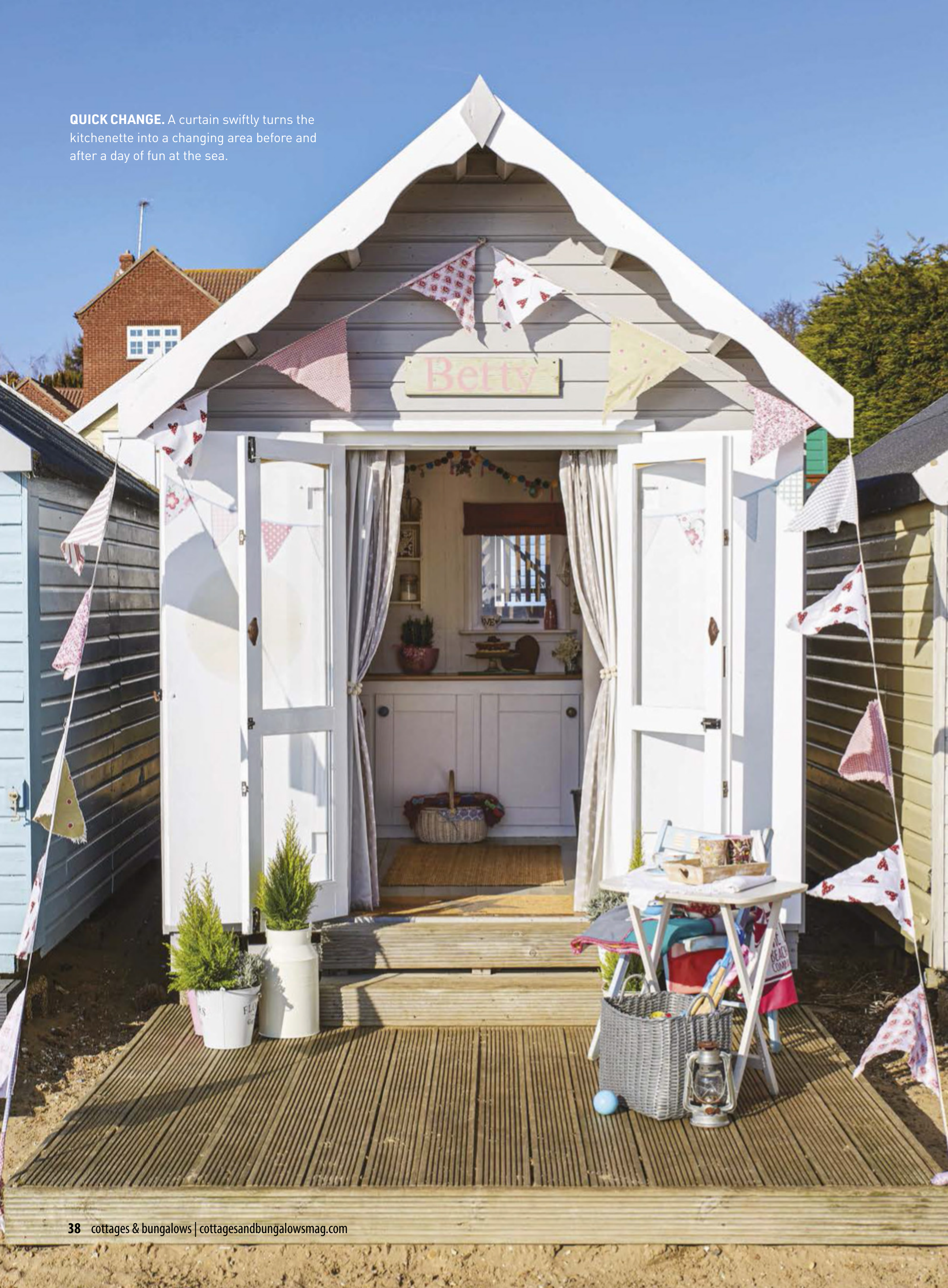
Rentals here are popular all year round and understandably peak at school holidays, but Christmas and New Year's are favorites too. 'We have outdoorsy families that come for big walks with their dogs, using the huts as a base, and we get a lot of repeat business," Jane says. "One family came for Christmas a few years back, bringing their wetsuits and turkey steaks to barbecue on the beach with them. They've been back every year since."

PRIME SPACE. The huts don't come up for sale often—many are kept in the family and handed down. Huts in the front row can expect to sell for approximately $50,000 at Mersea, with the rows behind costing approximately $31,000+.

The beach huts come with guest comforts, including tea, coffee, chairs, parasols and toys for little ones. Following beach-hut stipulations, there are no water mains or electricity and you can't camp out overnight. But there are facilities and water faucets close by and the huts have gas heaters that warm the space quickly on cold days.

Because the business has grown organically, Jane and Jayne have been able to tweak as they go, always keeping things on an even keel. Last year, they had a total of six huts but decided to scale down to a more manageable four—joining Betty are Kitty, Bertie and Peggy—as they like to be hands-on and provide a personalized service. And where Jayne once did all the catering, they now use a local company that can deliver a range of food options.

In the beginning, it was important to win over their fellow beach-hut owners. Many of the huts had been in their families for generations and they were worried that rentals would mean big parties, noise and disruption. Keeping one's neighbors happy is important for any hospitality business, and The Little Beach Hut Company has clear terms and conditions out of consideration for them, including a limit on the number of guests and a curfew of 8 p.m. "That really put their minds at rest," Jane says. "They could see that we had a family-friendly set-up with a welcoming vibe." It is that vibe, the personal service and the lovable character of these huts that sees families come back year after year and has earned the owners several awards, including being named Beach Hut of the Year. CB



QUICK CHANGE. A curtain swiftly turns the kitchenette into a changing area before and after a day of fun at the sea.

2017
BEST BEAC
In th
Worl
LINEN CO.
LINEN CO.
FRESH EGGS
for Breakfast

CHEERS TO TRADITION. All the beach huts are decorated with vintage accessories, celebrating the golden days of the British seaside holiday.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BEACH HUTS, VISIT **THELITTLEBEACHHUTCOMPANY.CO.UK**.

SOFT TOUCH. Jane is a talented seamstress and makes many of the soft furnishings herself. The crocheted blankets were made by a fan who follows the beach huts on Instagram.

Beach Cottage Homage

This 1940s adobe cottage is a nod to the owners' family homes.

WRITTEN BY AUTUMN KRAUSE

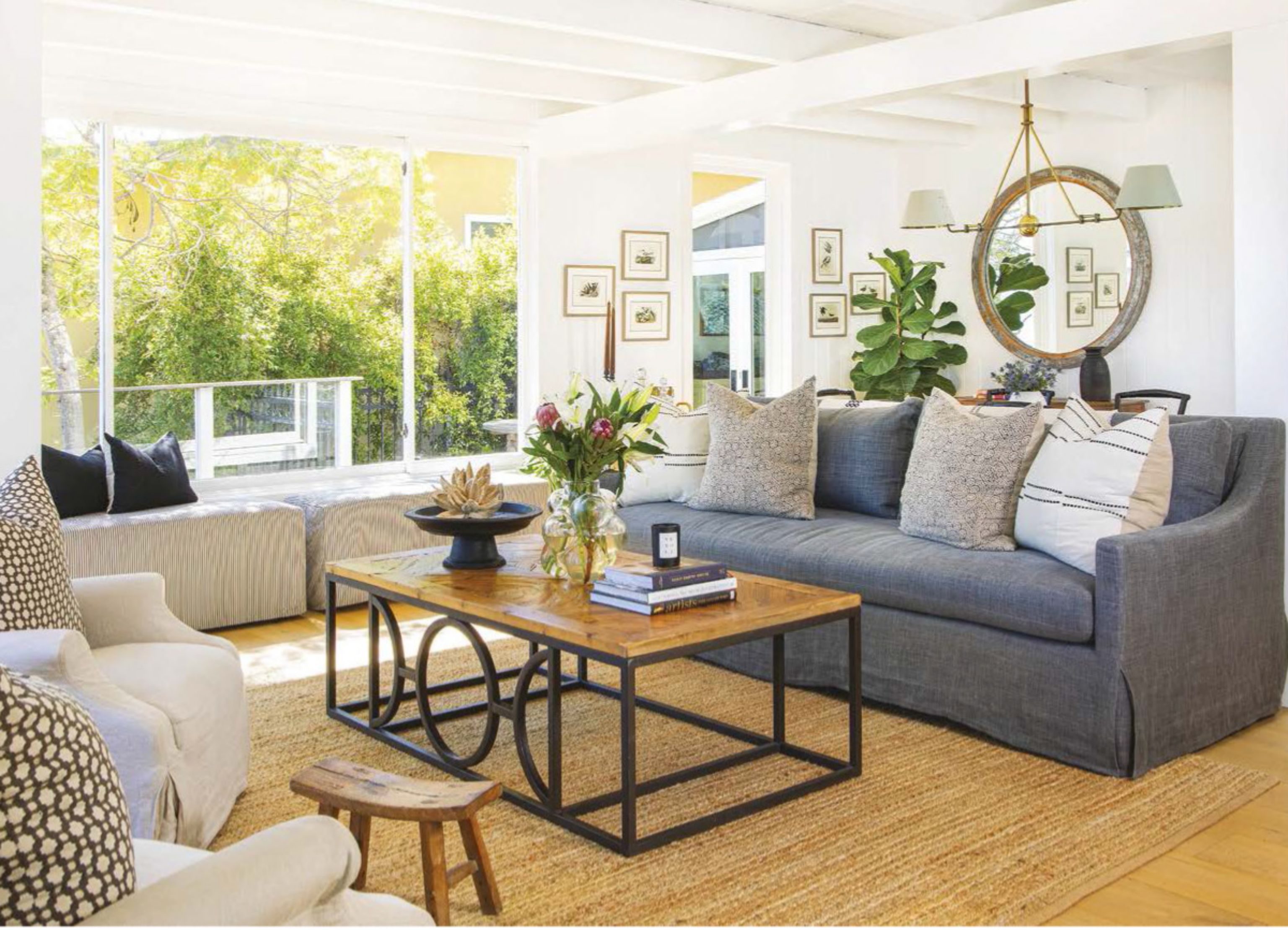
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRET GUM

DINING WITH A VIEW. Creating outdoor dining spaces to take advantage of the fair weather and ocean view was a top priority for the couple. Nicole made an outdoor dining room by placing a table in this area (the previous owners had used it as a sitting area). "Eating outdoors with my family and friends is one of my favorite things to do," Nicole says. Kelly adds, "The space is perfect for outdoor dining because it's located right off the kitchen."

|**ABOVE**| **HAT TRICK.** Necessity is the mother of invention. "It's always hard to get out of the house and remember everything, so I started leaving hats here to make it easy to grab one before going to the garden, beach or out," Nicole says. The hats double as breezy décor!

|**BELOW**| **PAINT JOB.** The couple recently painted the exterior of their home Kendall Charcoal by Benjamin Moore and cooper gutters and rain gutters. Their property also has a charming casita (pictured here) that they use as a guest room.

|**ABOVE**| **FRESH FLOWERS.** Nicole always tries to have fresh flowers around the house. "I often source my flowers from my yard," she says. She'll cut protea in spring or grab a bunch from their local farmer's market. Eucalyptus trees grow right on the property, so she also places the branches in vases around the house along with her flowers.

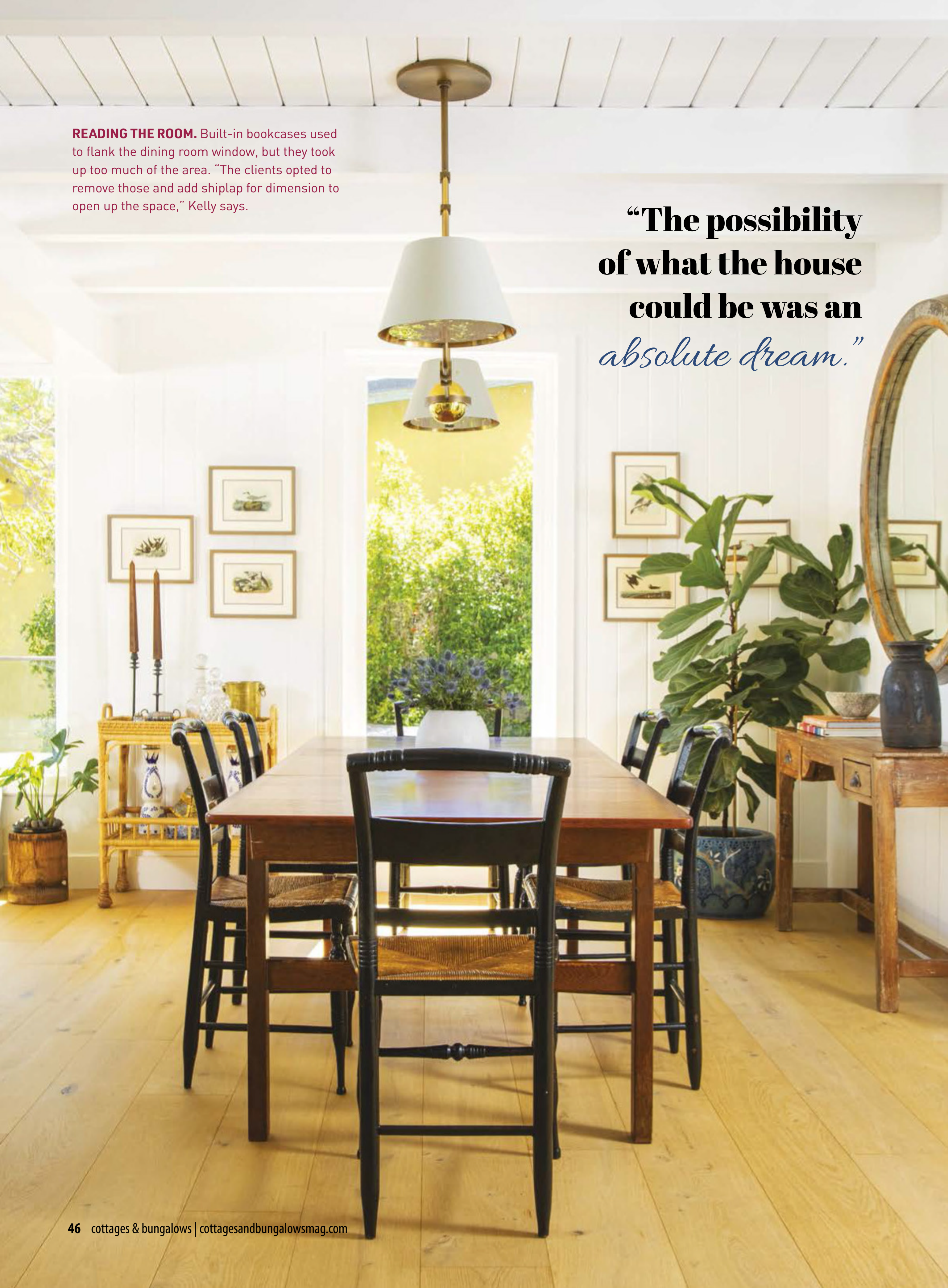


| **ABOVE** | **COZY QUARTERS.** The living room is an open concept with the kitchen and dining areas. "It's so great for a family of five, especially for Nicole and Peter to be able to keep an eye on the youngest one," Kelly explains. "Everything just goes, so the space isn't just easy on the eyes, it is also very livable." Nicole wanted it to be very comfortable and loves how it turned out. "It's truly a space that emphasizes connection and coziness," she says. "We purposefully keep the TV and all the toys in a den and playroom off this room."

| **RIGHT** | **COCKTAIL CENTRAL.** A bar cart is located across from the kitchen, adjacent to the living room and next to the dining room. "It's very central," Kelly says. "The crystal decanters, candlesticks and vintage items add charm and warmth." Many of the pieces are heirlooms Nicole inherited from her grandmothers and she often keeps her childhood tea set there for her daughter to play with.

This house sits on a hill overlooking Rim Rock Canyon in picturesque Laguna Beach, California, but its roots reflect another locale as well. The 1940s adobe cottage blends luxe, laid-back, beach-cottage style with the aesthetic of a beautiful, effortless lake house.

"Nicole Anderson, the homeowner, is from Michigan and her husband, Peter, was born and raised in California," says Kelly Shannon, owner of K Shan Design and a friend of the family, says. "It truly does mix the two styles for perfect results." Nicole adds, "Peter and I love classic and simple but elegant design."



READING THE ROOM. Built-in bookcases used to flank the dining room window, but they took up too much of the area. "The clients opted to remove those and add shiplap for dimension to open up the space," Kelly says.

> **"The possibility of what the house could be was an** *absolute dream."*

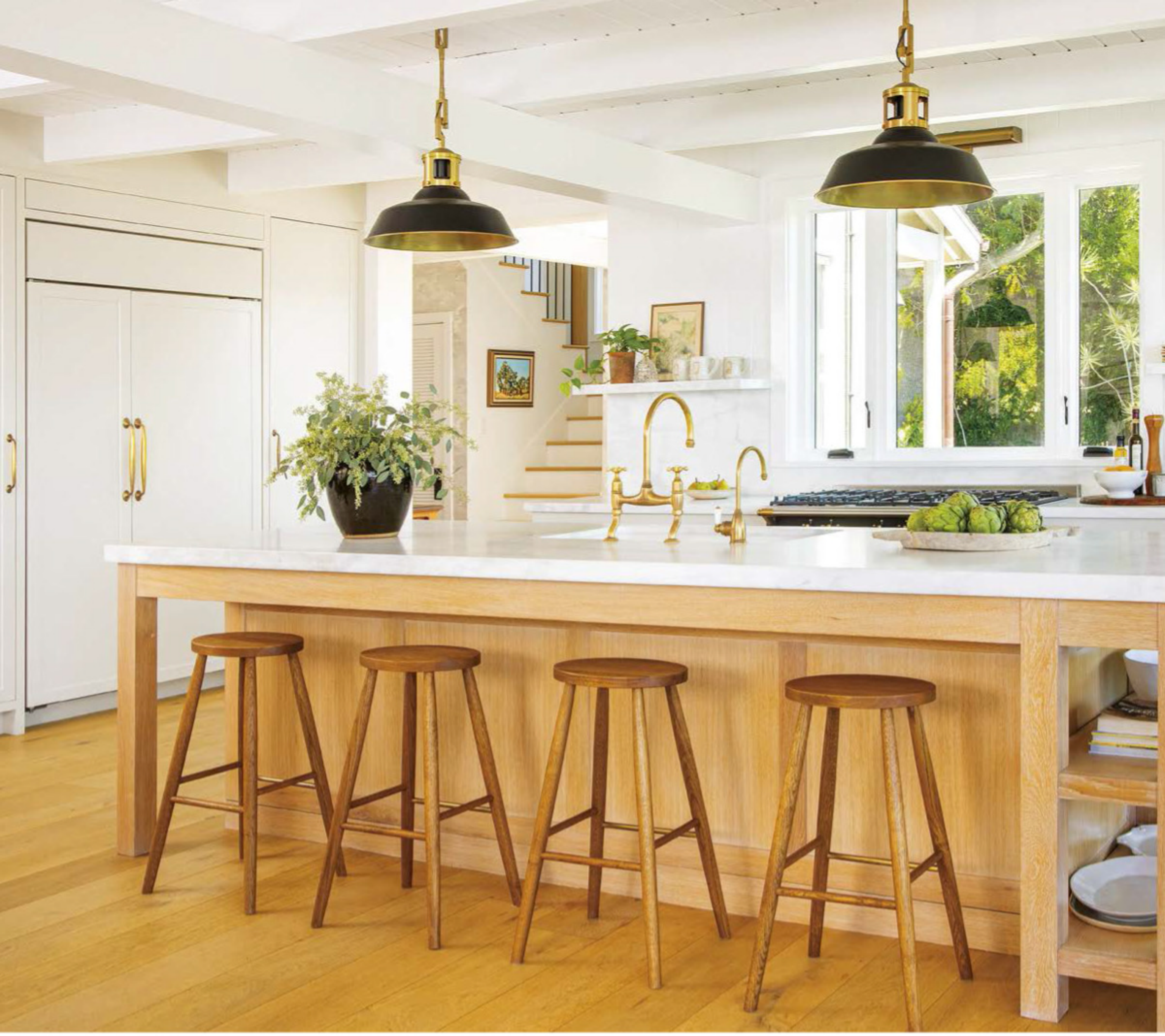
|ABOVE, LEFT| ORANGESICLE. A grasscloth paper in a stunning orange makes a statement in an archway nook. "I enjoy having some pops of color in the house," Nicole says. "It was fun to put the paper just in the nook where it has big impact."

|ABOVE, RIGHT| PRIZED POSSESSION. Nicole and Peter wanted a seating area in their primary bedroom and Nicole found a desk at an estate sale. The chair is a family treasure built by Peter's great uncle, Jan de Swart, who was an artist and woodworker born in 1908.

|RIGHT| CIRCULAR LOGIC. This piece is on the top landing of the stairs going up to the primary bedroom. "I had it from a previous home and liked that it broke up the angular space with a more feminine piece to display family photos," Nicole says.

Undergirded by the vision of combining the styles of a lake house and beach cottage, the couple focused on designing a new kitchen, redoing the bathrooms, creating better use of the outdoor living space and installing new white oak floors and stairs. And, of course, what is a remodel if you don't move a few walls to open the floor plan? They did just that to convert the living/dining/kitchen area into one open space. Though the renovation was extensive, they had the right team for the task as they turned to their community: Peter's brother and father are contractors and they are also surrounded by talented friends.

"We had wonderful people to help us with our vision," Nicole says. They used local craftsmen and showcased their artist friends' works while also turning to close friends like Kelly and designer Corinna Thavirat from Corinna Lee Thavirat Design. The house was truly reborn with tender loving care.



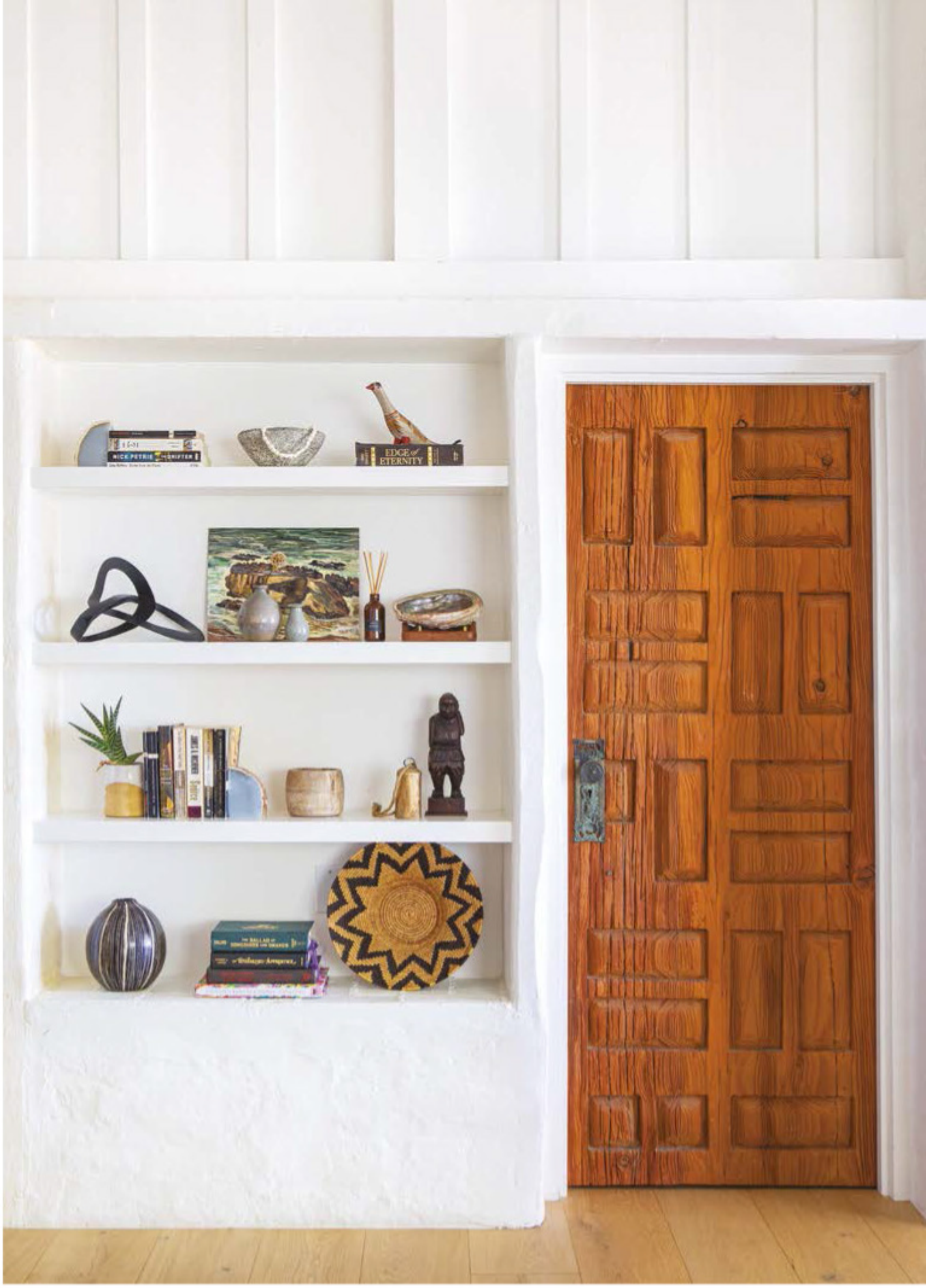
| **ABOVE** | **EYE FOR DESIGN.** A large island and practical storage were Nicole's priorities for the kitchen—and she got both by cleverly adding storage to the island design. "Our friend Corinna Thavirat (Corinna Lee Thavirat Design) drew up the architectural plans," she says. "I wanted a large island, but one that did not feel as bulky given its length (over 11 feet), so we added open shelves at the end." The shelves perfectly accommodate her large platters and bowls and keep the island from feeling too heavy for the space. "Corinna even designed a small drawer on top of one of the shelves so I can store my serving spoons and long salad utensils," Nicole says.

FOREVER HOME…TAKE TWO

The couple and their children had just settled into their previous home when Nicole expressed her desire to move again. "I wanted a place with more space for our growing family. Peter was not thrilled, so I went looking for homes with my father-in-law," she says. She will always remember walking into the front gate of the home, down the stairs for the first time and seeing the yard with grass, a huge tree and a tire swing—nostalgic memories from her past. "My Michigan roots kicked in," Nicole says. "I wanted my children to be able to play outdoors and have usable outdoor space, and this home had that. Also, Peter is an avid gardener, and I knew the property would have the room to let him use his green thumb." When Kelly first saw the home, she said, "I absolutely fell in love. The possibility of what the house could be was an absolute dream."

RENOVATION STATION

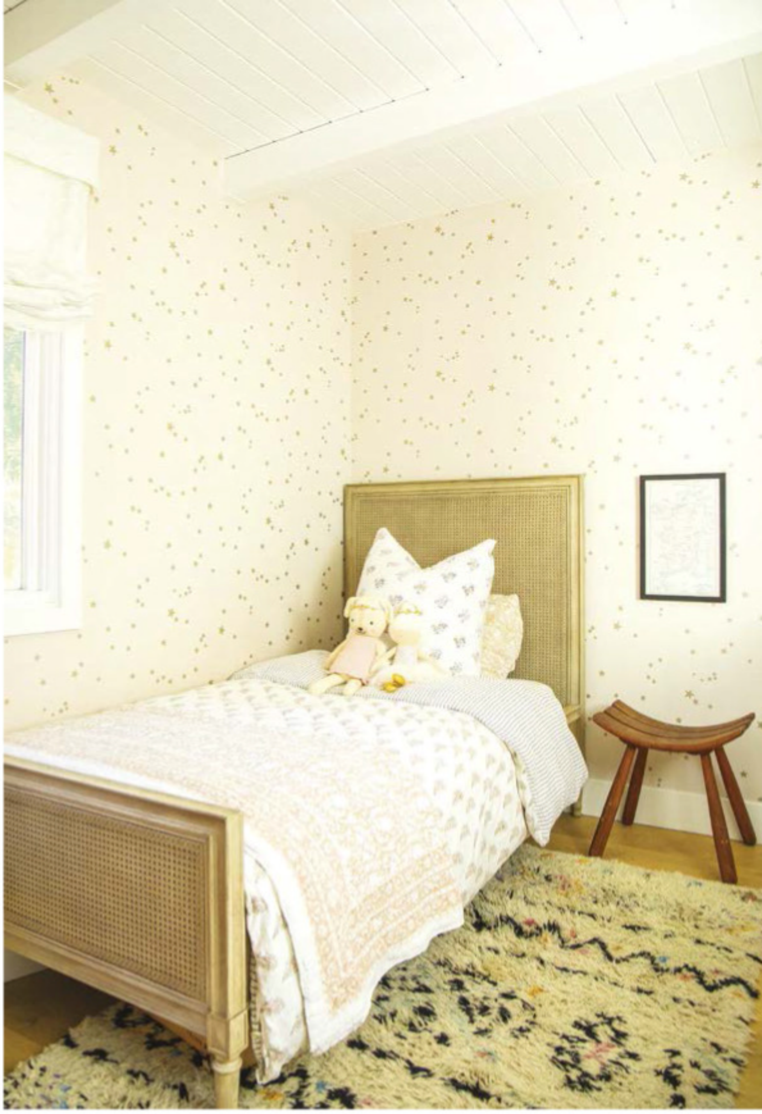
The home originally had oppressively dark floors with chandeliers and fireplaces, making it seem more formal. Longing for a fresh and bright space with an artful flow, Nicole picked a light color scheme with a new layout and design features.



| ABOVE | SHELF LIFE. Nicole turned to Kelly to style her shelves. "I love styling bookshelves because it tells a story about who the people are that live in that home." Kelly says. "They are very personal, which is maybe a reason so many people feel challenged by doing them themselves." She enjoys making the shelves tell her clients story while making them visually pleasing. "As for built-ins, well there is nothing better because it's literally built into the home, and they are so beautiful and soulful that way," she says.

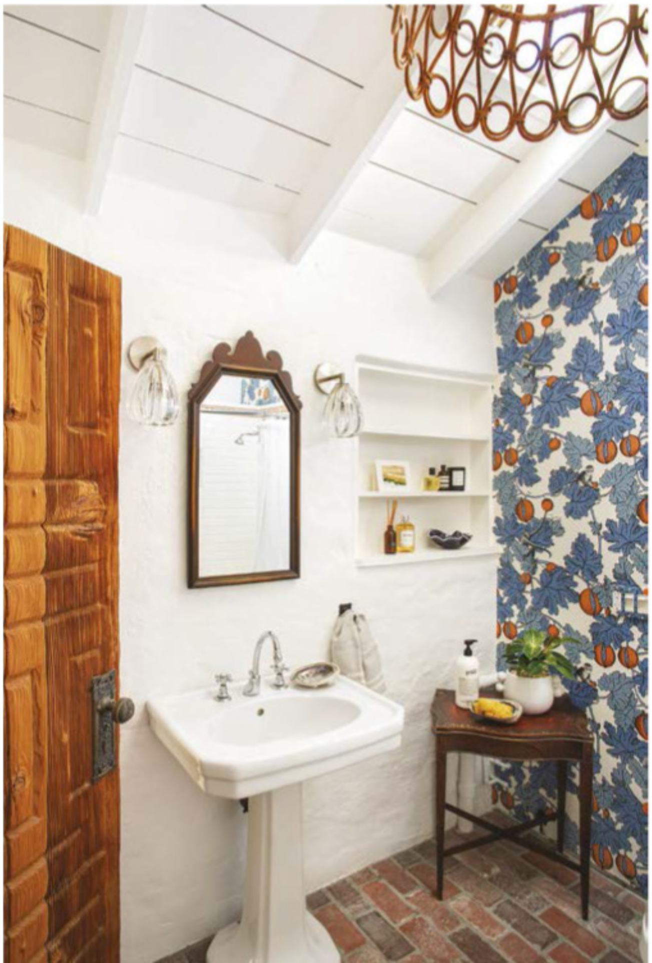
| LEFT | TIMELESS NOT TRENDY. Nicole envisioned open shelving in the kitchen, but was tired of seeing the typical wooden open-shelf look in most kitchens. "That's when I came up with the idea of running the marble up to one shelf," she says. "It keeps the materials simple yet timeless. I really did not want a trendy kitchen, but rather a classic one that I will be comfortable in 20 years down the road."

NEW AND OLD. In her dining room, Nicole mixes old and new pieces. "Everything in this space except the mirror and light fixture have been repurposed," she says. The items add personality and dimension to the neutral home. "Together, everything creates a calming feeling that aligns with the ocean and canyon landscape outside the windows. My house is a retreat and a place of comfort," she says.



|ABOVE, RIGHT| PERFECT PALE PINK. Valentina, the couple's daughter, uses this bedroom which is dressed in Cole & Sons star wallpaper in a pretty pale-pink shade. "After two boys, I was excited to have the opportunity to use this paper and it is neutral enough that my tomboy daughter even likes it," Nicole says with a smile.

|RIGHT| COLOR CRUSH. Pops of color make Nicole's heart sing and this wallpaper, from Cole & Sons, was a fun way to add in the color orange (with a side of monkeys!). "It works so well with the original brick," Nicole says. Kelly Shannon found them the lovely vintage shade on Charish.



"The neutral color scheme was created by the home's environment," Kelly explains. "We took inspiration from the property, which is covered with eucalyptus trees and placed right in the beautiful hills of Laguna. Depth was then created through design elements by mixing textures and using different tones of wood and metals."

VISION FOR REVISION

Several areas received a lot of TLC. The kitchen was redesigned to be more communal with a kitchen nook for the kids to do homework while Nicole, a lawyer by day, cooks. "My kitchen is my happy place. I made sure there was enough space between the island and stove/back cabinets so there is room for a few of us to work at one time," she says.

The primary bathroom was transformed into a personal spa. "I just love sitting in my vanity chair, which is a Levaggi Beech Tre Archi chair," Nicole says. And, of course, with the beach so close to the home, the outdoor living space was of particular importance. They installed a beautiful deck and a fire pit. "We can now eat dinner outdoors together any warm night of the year," Nicole says. "This space opens up to our kitchen and living area, so we really get to enjoy the beautiful Southern California weather. And with our new firepit, we all enjoy gathering around it and looking out over the ocean." She often sets the table with glasses from her glassblower friends at Siemon and Salazar Studio in Laguna Beach.

Thanks to their special team of friends and family, the Andersons now have their forever home. It's a place that celebrates both Nicole's roots and Peter's longtime home and brings just the right amount of homey lakeside living to the SoCal beachside.

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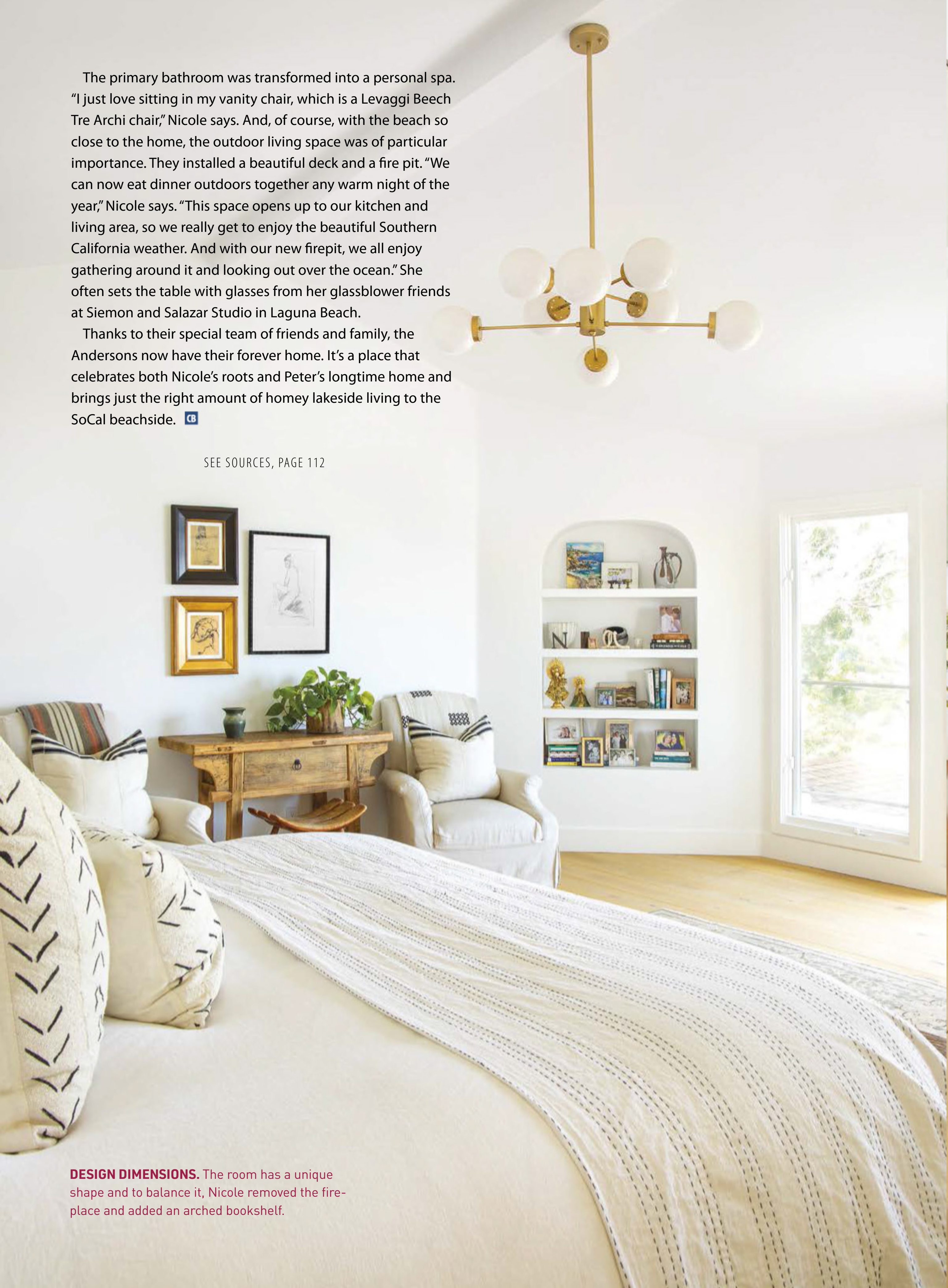
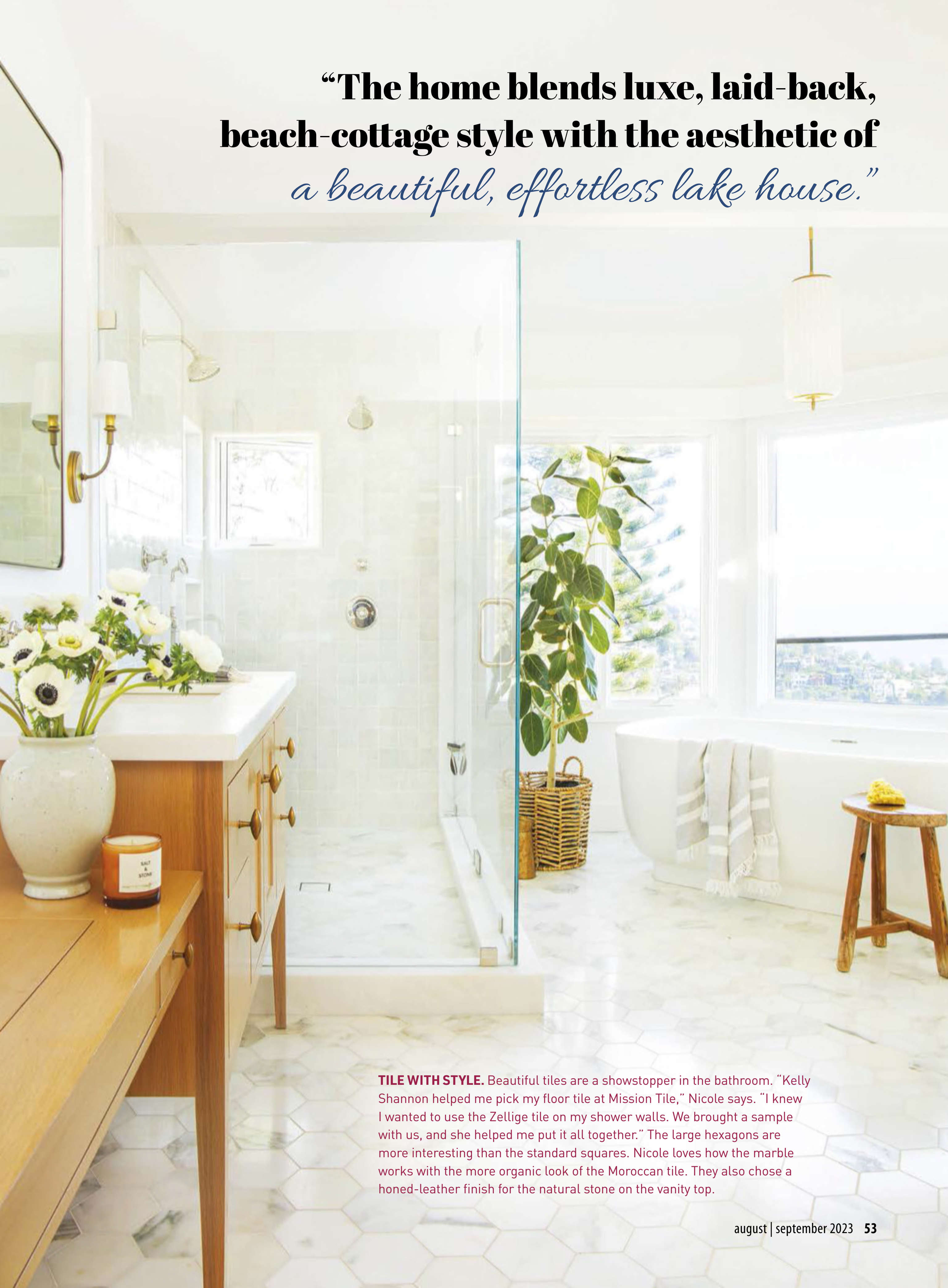


DESIGN DIMENSIONS. The room has a unique shape and to balance it, Nicole removed the fireplace and added an arched bookshelf.



> **“The home blends luxe, laid-back, beach-cottage style with the aesthetic of** *a beautiful, effortless lake house.”*

TILE WITH STYLE. Beautiful tiles are a showstopper in the bathroom. “Kelly Shannon helped me pick my floor tile at Mission Tile,” Nicole says. “I knew I wanted to use the Zellige tile on my shower walls. We brought a sample with us, and she helped me put it all together.” The large hexagons are more interesting than the standard squares. Nicole loves how the marble works with the more organic look of the Moroccan tile. They also chose a honed-leather finish for the natural stone on the vanity top.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSIE PREZA

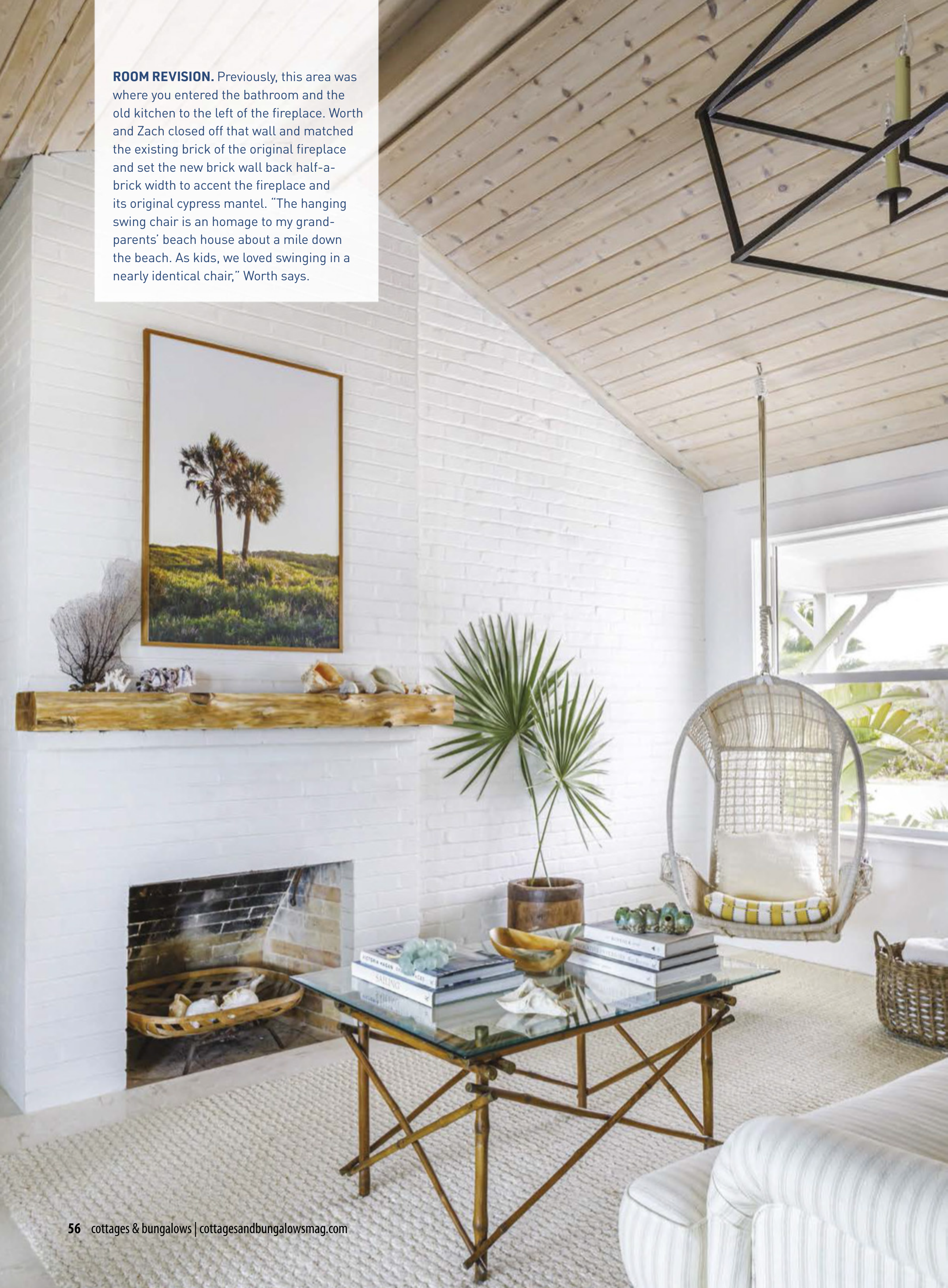
Rescued From *the Rubble*

One couple saw beyond the ravages of a Florida hurricane to rescue and restore this cottage in danger of being demolished.

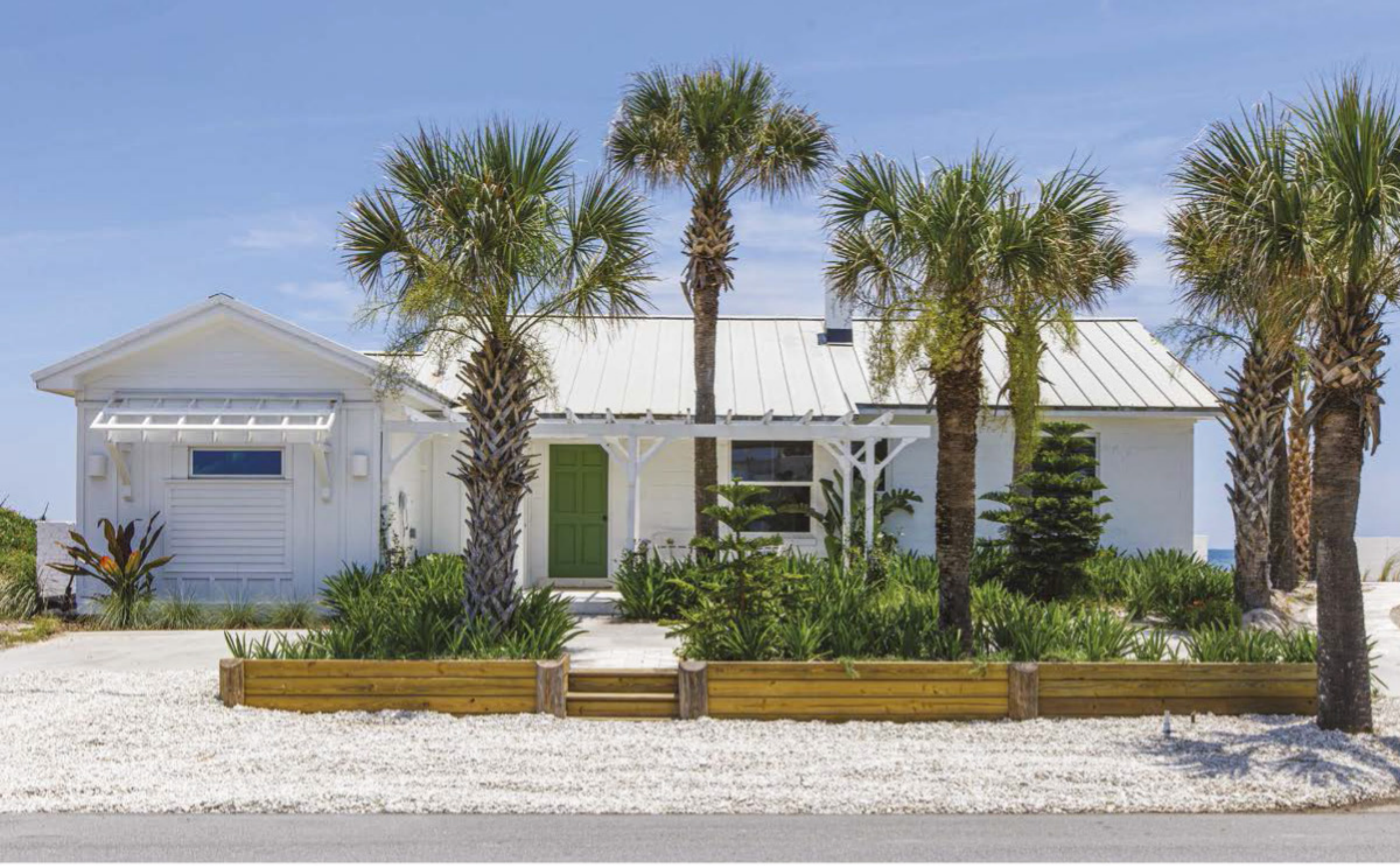
KINFOLK
VICTORIA HAGAN DREAM SPACES
SAILING

The term "hurricane damage" is often the kiss of death when it comes to homes that have been negatively impacted by nature. But for Worth Turner and Zach Neumann, a visionary couple seeking a bungalow to spend weekends boating and enjoying the South Ponte Vedra Beach, those two words weren't enough to scare them away—not when they could see the historic charm built into the bones of the battered Floridian beauty.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS. The layout of the room maximizes the ocean views and matches the style of the space. "We found a sofa with a low back so it wouldn't interrupt the sightlines out of the windows," Zach explains. "And since we often spend time near the kitchen, we incorporated an area to lounge there."

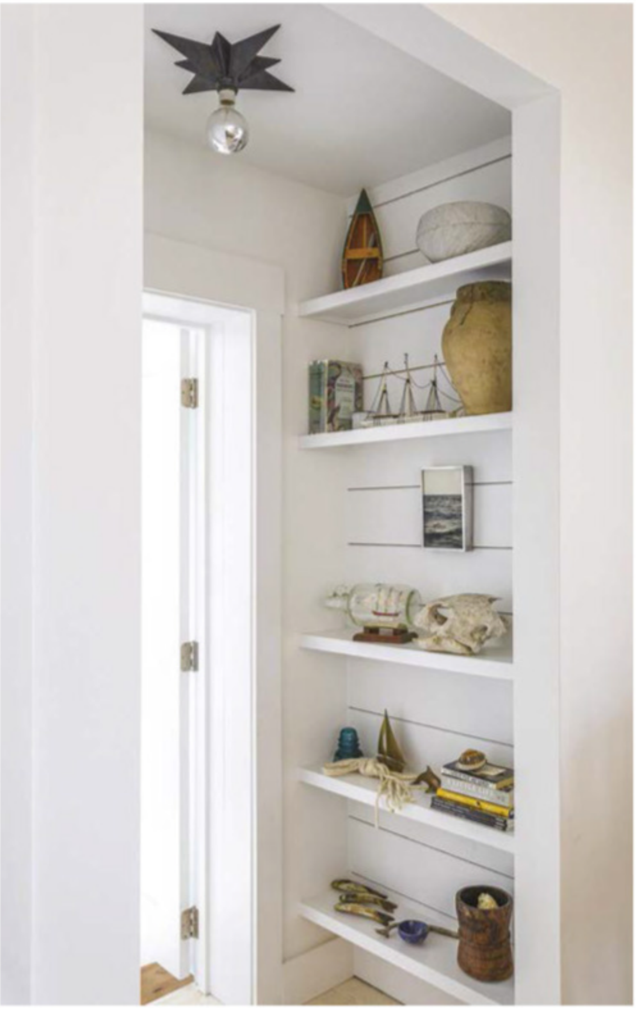


ROOM REVISION. Previously, this area was where you entered the bathroom and the old kitchen to the left of the fireplace. Worth and Zach closed off that wall and matched the existing brick of the original fireplace and set the new brick wall back half-a-brick width to accent the fireplace and its original cypress mantel. "The hanging swing chair is an homage to my grandparents' beach house about a mile down the beach. As kids, we loved swinging in a nearly identical chair," Worth says.



|**ABOVE**| **WHAT'S IN A NAME.** The moniker Cane Cottage came about from a fun spin on the word "hurricane." It's the homeowners' homage to the cottage enduring a hurricane, but it's also humorous because it eliminated "hurri" from the name—something that proved true since the project took a while, making it seem as though there wasn't much "hurrying" happening. It was also perfect because they decorated the cottage with cane furniture in honor of its old Floridian history.

|**BELOW**| **SHELFIE.** A built-in space was necessary to display precious objects from both sides of the family. "Together, we have several meaningful heirlooms and objects from our families, and this was the perfect spot to showcase them, seen once you take the second step into the cottage," Zach says.



"The home was in horrible disrepair and close to being completely condemned," says Worth, founder of Hollingsworth & Soaptique.com. "Anyone else would have probably leveled the house and started fresh, but we were drawn to the old Florida character that the cottage exuded and wanted to preserve the structure."

The cottage's great ceiling height, vaulted wood paneled ceiling and many windows facing the ocean spoke of something special and worth preserving. "Even in its horrible disrepair, I saw the potential of what it could become, never realizing I had absolutely no idea how perfect it would turn out," says Zach, a veterinary medical oncologist and medical director. Fast forward to the present: The bungalow is now dubbed "Cane Cottage" and is completely renovated with a beachy European elegance that retains the character that first drew the couple to it.

SPECTACULAR SEASCAPE. The ocean steals the show in the kitchen and, as Worth says, "We knew we couldn't compete with the beauty of the beach. Keeping the kitchen simple and functional were the only goals we had." They also made sure to recess an area in the kitchen to accommodate the refrigerator and coffee bar.

| **BELOW** | **BABA BOARDS.** The pastry cutting board in the kitchen, the open shelves and the coffee bar were all designed and built by Zach and his dad. The pastry-board design came from a board his father made for his grandmother, Baba. Worth says, "When I saw a similar board made by Zach's dad, I said, 'I could sell these in my store.'" The encouraging comment led to the creation of Baba Boards. Sadly, Zach's father passed away during the renovation of the cottage and his brothers helped him complete the last Baba Boards project for the cottage: the Baba coffee bar. "I've since carried on the company with their help," Zach says.

| **RIGHT** | **COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEFS.** Worth and Zach love to cook for their family and friends. One of their favorite recipes is Worth's grandmother's Turner Tuna Salad—always made with fresh tuna caught by Worth's dad.

Mixing Business With *Pleasure*

The homeowners are passionate about their careers and personal interests. They've each forged successful businesses predicated on the things they love: animals, design and architecture. In addition, they each have companies inspired by life's luxuries: high-end soaps and body-care products and beautiful boards for baths, charcuterie boards and other uses.

- **IN STUDIO.** Worth is an entrepreneur and the owner of the popular Tile + Plumbing studio, Hollingsworth Showroom in Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida, with a presence in the St. Simons, Georgia, area. Additionally, he owns commercial properties in the Jacksonville area and has refurbished buildings and residential historic homes, with current plans to redevelop an iconic 9,000-square-foot building. He has focused on acquiring historic and notable buildings throughout the San Marco neighborhood. His family has owned Turner Plumbing since 1942, with strong ties to the community.

- **A HEART FOR ANIMALS.** Dr. Zachary Neumann, DVM, MS, DACVIM (oncology), originally from Chicago, is a veterinary oncologist at Southeast Veterinary Oncology and Internal Medicine. He has a special love for older animals and focuses on improving the quality of their life and the time they have left with their family. The couple have a rescued golden retriever named Boulder, who loves frolicking on the beach and spending time with his dads.

- **THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE.** In addition, Worth and Zach have projects dedicated to making life's ordinary moments a little finer and more enjoyable. Turner owns a luxury online soap company called Soaptique, which features exquisite soaps, candles and body products. Zach enjoys woodworking and started Baba Boards in 2018 with his father, Jim Neumann. Baba Boards makes gorgeous wooden pastry boards, presentation boards and cutting boards (seen throughout the accompanying photos).

|**ABOVE, LEFT**| **PALM BEFORE THE STORM.** Being across from Guana State Park gives the couple access to a constant source of native palms, which they love to decorate with. Nothing ties their décor into the local plant life more than these palms! They give the spaces a tropical Florida vibe.

|**ABOVE, RIGHT**| **HAPPY HOUR.** The bamboo bar cart is always stocked with some of the couple's favorite liquors. Zach opts for a nice bourbon and Worth enjoys drinking aged rums from his treasured collection of tiki mugs.

|**BOTTOM, LEFT**| **OUT OF THE SHELL.** One of the perks of beach-cottage living is that the homeowners are constantly walking along the beach and collecting unique shells and shark's teeth. The collection has grown so much that they have started putting the shells in the surrounding palm trees.

|**BOTTOM, RIGHT**| **RAISE YOUR GLASSES.** Glassware, ceramics—any type of drinking vessel with a subtle beach aesthetic speaks to the couple and doubles as décor in their cottage.

plume & petal
LEMON DRIFT

DEJA BREW. Worth and Zach saved a nook next to the refrigerator specifically for a coffee bar. The dream was to have a waterfall continuous wood-grain board for the space, which they accomplished with magnificent results. Zach recalls, "I remember sitting at my parents' house and designing this on paper with Worth and my dad to make sure we had space for coffee mugs, décor and a coffee maker. There is even a hidden outlet in the wood."

TWO VIEWS

Marriage is a beautiful thing because it sometimes helps you see things in a different light. When Zach saw the cottage, he describes his reaction as "love at first sight." When Worth saw it, he recalls, "I was immediately terrified of all the work needing to be done." It was a unique role reversal: Usually, Worth is the risk taker and dreamer between the two. But the opposing reactions ended up being just what was needed. Zach helped Worth see the potential in the bungalow, while Worth helped Zach see the realistic side of the project. "I kept saying, 'Are you sure?' and was still slightly terrified after we bought the home and were popping champagne while standing in the rubble of an old concrete-block cottage," Worth says.

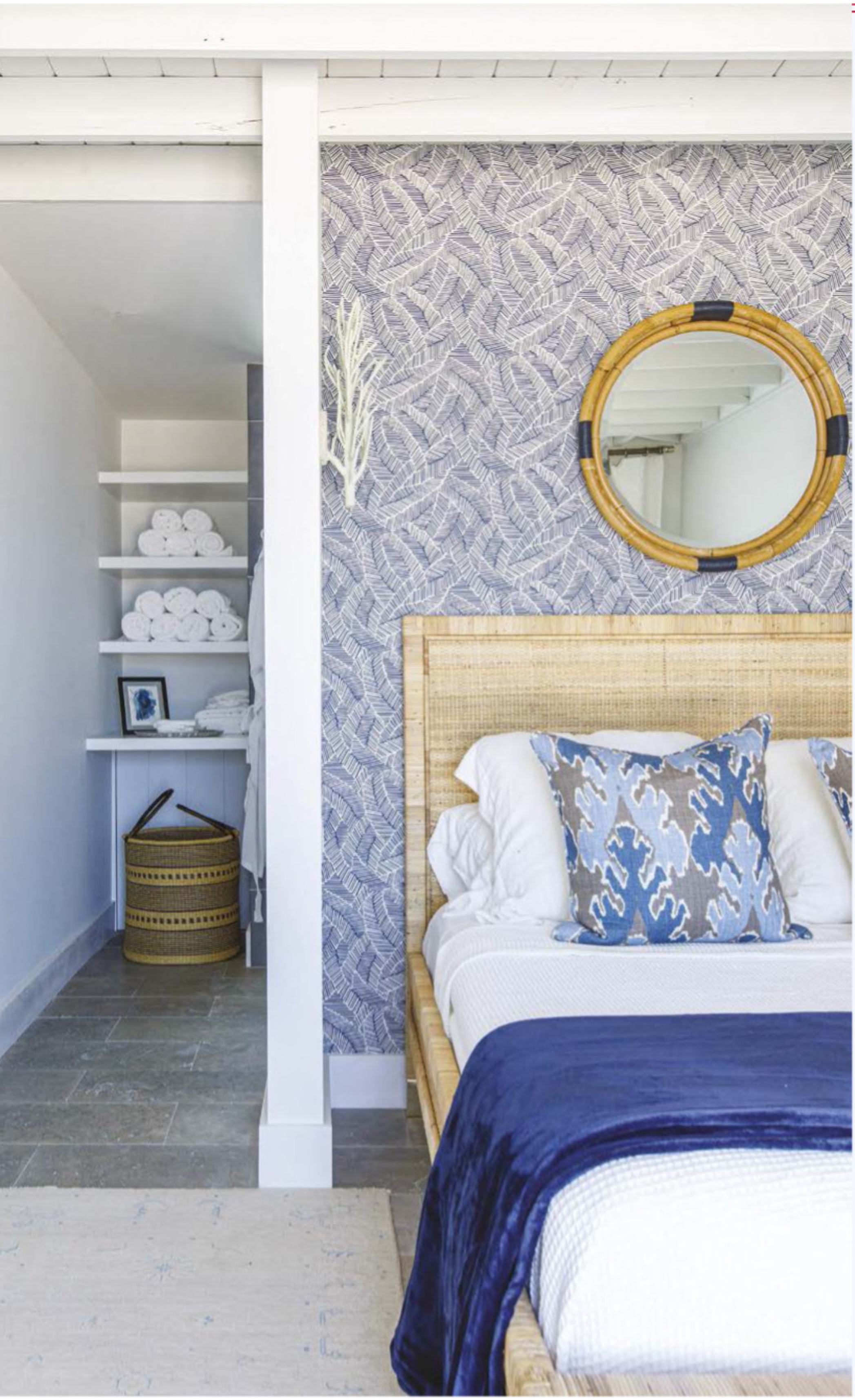
SURVEYING THE LAND

As the couple started to plan the renovation, they took their direction from the landscape in two ways: They wanted the views to steal the show, so they kept their designs edited while reflecting the ocean and state park the cottage faces and then worked to ensure everything was as weatherproof as possible. "Rust is always a problem when you are close to salt, so choosing items like ceramic outdoor sconces, teak furniture, etc., was important," Worth says.

| **BELOW** | **SECOND LIFE.** Sometimes, original details in historic cottages only require a little love to be restored. The cypress mantel was original to the cottage—all it required was some light sanding and wood conditioner to bring it back to life.

| **BELOW** | **SERENE SCENE.** The couple felt like the primary bed needed to have caning on the bedframe to keep with the coastal vibe and namesake of the cottage. The bed is from Serena & Lily with Schumacher blue and white palm wallpaper behind it. Coral sconces on either side of the bed create beautiful shadows at night.

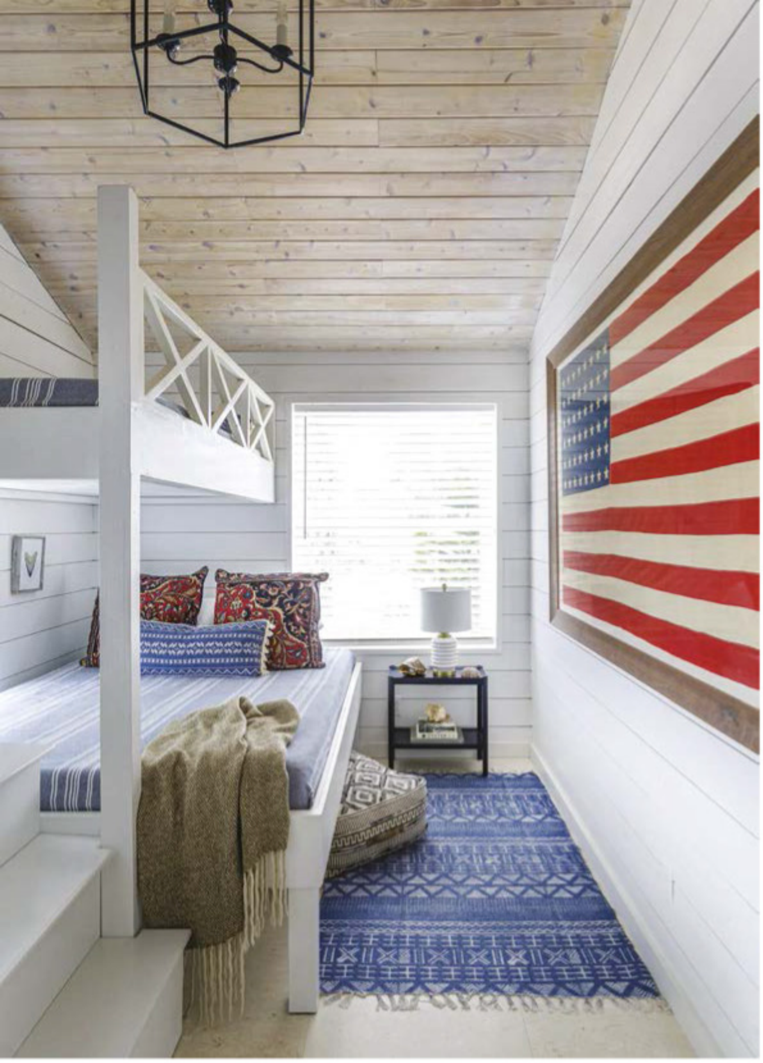
| **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** | **SINK-182.** Two pedestal sinks from Devon & Devon add a vintage romance to the primary bathroom along with handmade blue ceramic tiles and a beautiful stone mosaic. "It reminds us of the ocean every time we step inside," Worth says.

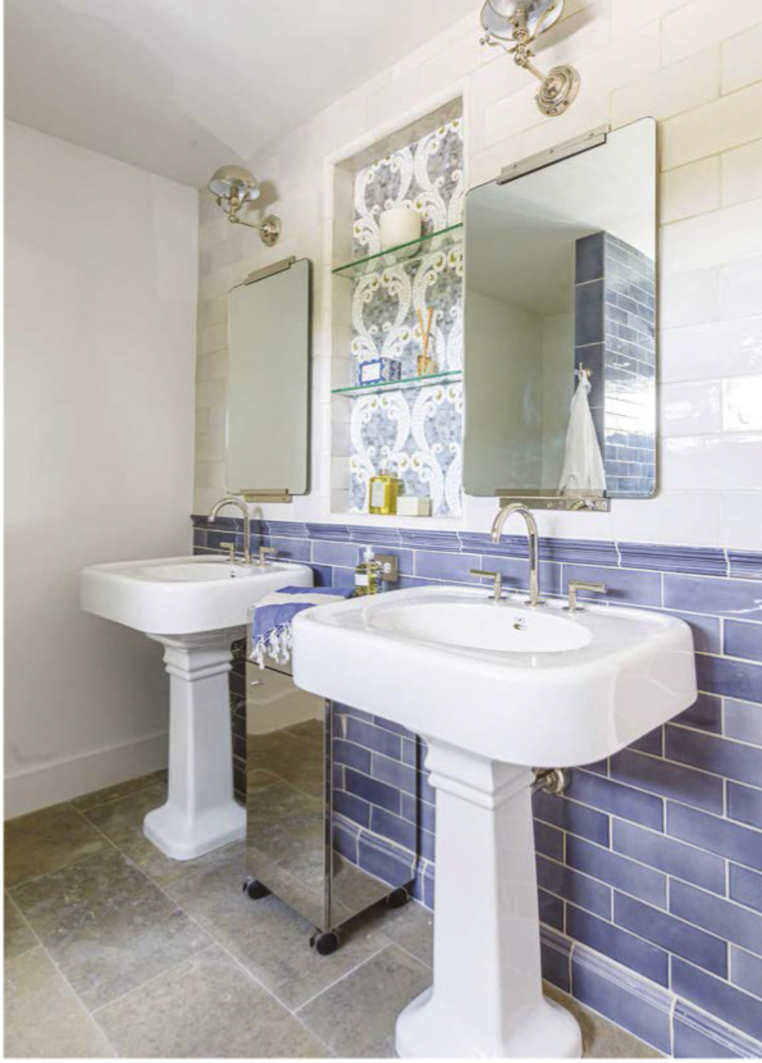


Picking the *Palette*

The color story of the house was particularly important to the couple. Taking their cues from the surrounding landscape along with tones and themes that speak to them, they crafted the cottage's identity in neutral hues with stunning accents.

- **FRESH GREENS.** Worth and Zach both love green, and since the cottage faces a state park, it made sense to have a rich bright-green door to welcome guests in and echo the colors in the park. It's a stunning statement to the cottage's public-forward face.
- **BRIGHT WHITES.** The couple wanted the kitchen area to be whites and neutrals with rattan and cane furniture. "I remember thinking yellow to emulate the sun would be the perfect accent color for this space. So, when the time came, we found this fun quilted yellow Schumacher fabric that was comfortable and perfect for the area," Worth says.
- **FEELING BLUE.** "Blue seems to be everyone's favorite color, including mine, so that was an easy decision for the primary bedroom," Worth says. The couple picked a lively blue and white wallpaper with a graphic palm pattern for the space.
- **PATRIOTIC PUNCTUATION.** Americana in the bunk room simply felt right. "Zach built it with his father, and we always knew the theme," Worth says. When they found this antique flag at Zach's mother's house, they immediately begged to take it and have it framed for the space. She gladly let them borrow it "on loan."

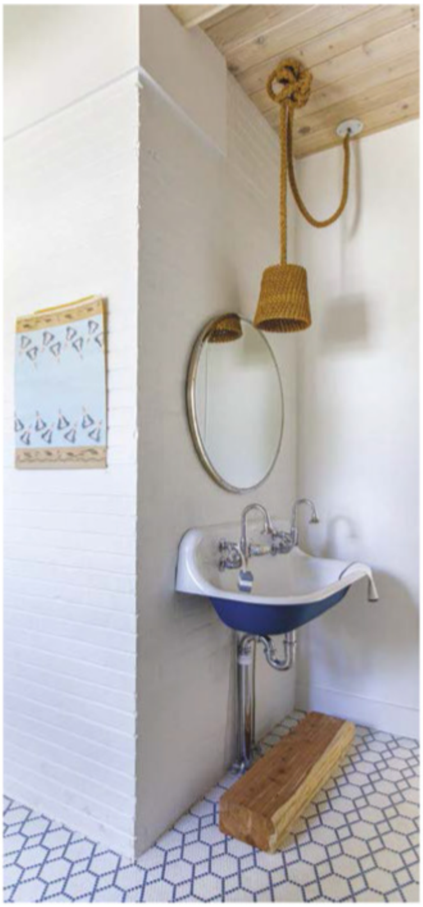




| **ABOVE, LEFT** | **BUNK DOWN.** A bunk room was inspired by Zach's large family needing a space to stay when they come to visit. During Zach's childhood, his father built bunk beds for him and his three brothers, so it was especially nostalgic when he came down to Florida to help build these bunks for the next generation of grandkids. They are three XL twin beds and one queen bed for a lucky parent.

They removed a door at the back of the house and relocated it to the side of the kitchen. Ocean-facing windows first drew them to the home, so they kept them and added more to expand the view. Limestone flooring was chosen because hardwood flooring is easily damaged by water. The kitchen was previously small and compact, but it is now a large, open airy space with incredible views of the waves and ocean. It has one-of-a-kind features like two oversized antique brass pendants taken off a ship in England, which coordinates with a distressed brass kitchen faucet from Worth's studio as well as with several other finishes.

"The kitchen was an impressive feat and a fan favorite," Zach says. They converted the former garage into a primary suite and added an en suite bathroom—they kept the bathrooms large for a smaller house, so those private areas feel very elevated and inviting. In the en suite, they added a transom window that overlooks Guana State Park and offers incredible views while showering. There's also handmade ceramic tile with a heavy glaze variation reminiscent of the water and a mosaic niche that also mirrors the shape of waves.



COMPLETELY COASTAL. The bunk-room bath was the space where Worth and Zach fully embraced the coastal aesthetic. A dual-sink basin, porthole mirror, rattan pendant, and blue and white mosaic floor are testaments to their going all-in on casual coastal design. "In keeping with the theme, we even sourced an old piece of cypress as a nod to the original fireplace mantel to be used as a step up for the nieces and nephews," Zach says.

|ABOVE, LEFT| SHIP'S AHOY! Shiplap adds a subtle background design element so the bunk beds can take center stage.

|ABOVE, RIGHT| PLANTS FOR THE PERGOLA. An outdoor pergola facing the state park was original to the home. "To complete it, we added the outdoor limestone pavers," Worth says. "We've also been busy gardening, so one day we will have a fully covered green canopy of native plants."

|LEFT| KNOW WHEN TO FOLD 'EM. This classic card table was refinished by Zach's mother. They placed it in the entry living room, away from the sun to protect the fabric surface. Zach, Worth and their guests enjoy cards after a long day on the beach.

FAMILY TIME

The renovation was extensive, but the couple had the pleasure of working on it with their families. "It was a beautiful thing to see the bond formed by our extended family coming together to restore the house and fix all the hurricane damage," says Worth. Zach adds, "Looking back, I am beyond grateful we took this huge risk, as the memories we created will last a lifetime. My dad helped us, which was so significant. Unfortunately, he passed away a year and a half later, making the memories even more meaningful."

Life on the beach is beautiful and, with the cottage saved from being torn down, it's a unique peek into the Floridian architecture of the past and a living photo album of family memories for the present and future.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 112

|**BELOW, LEFT**| **STEPS FROM THE SURF.** "Simple is the keyword for this outdoor space," Zach says. It's just steps away from the beach and is meant to encourage throwing a surfboard up against the house before jumping in the hammock or using the outdoor shower.

|**BELOW, RIGHT**| **BEACH BUMS.** While the beach is public, the couple's portion is very private. "Our hammock area, which is anchored by the palm tree, is the perfect place to read a book or unwind after a long day," Worth says.

|**ABOVE, LEFT**| **LOOK ON THE BEACHSIDE.** There's nothing like living on the beach. "It's hard to be stressed when you wake up here," Worth says. "Unless, of course, a hurricane is coming. Otherwise, waking up and walking out onto the sand gives you a complete sense of calm." He and Zach love to swim and hunt for shark's teeth and interesting items that wash ashore. They also try to clean up any litter or debris.

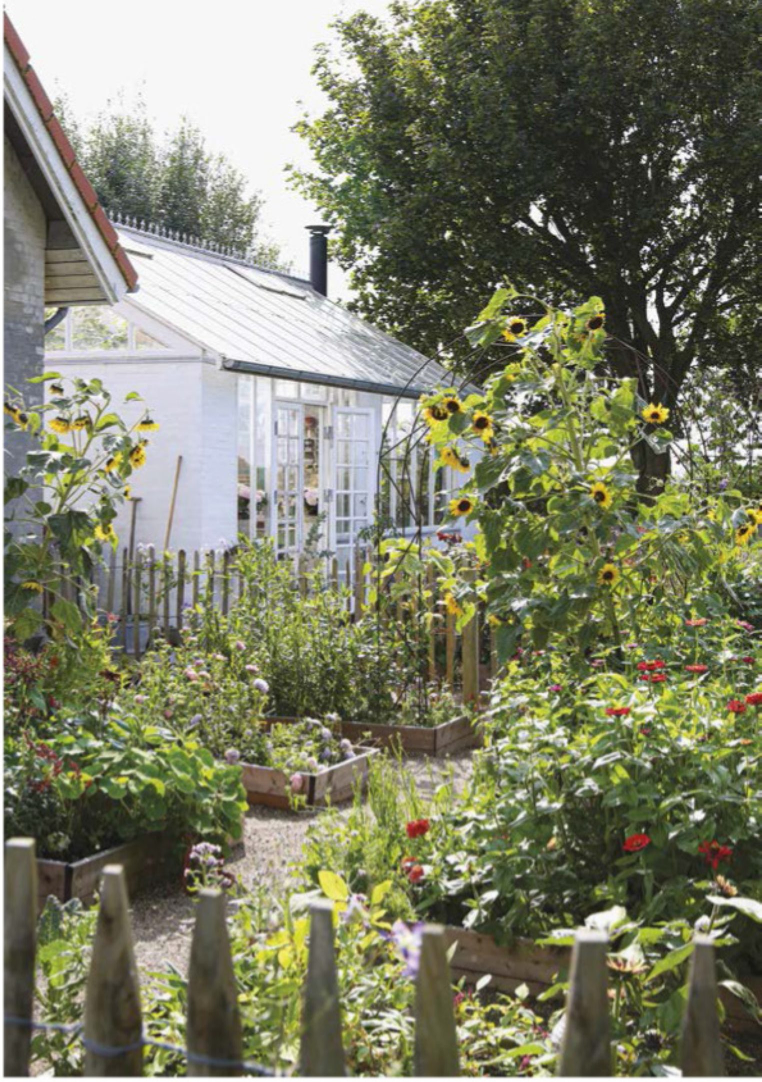
|**ABOVE, RIGHT**| **SHOWERING EN PLEIN AIRE.** It was important to Worth and Zach to have an outdoor shower that has hot and cold water because showering outside at night in warm water while looking up at the stars with the waves in the background is heaven. "We selected a Sonoma Forge copper shower system cause we knew anything ocean facing would patina and we love the green color that copper turns over time," Zach says.

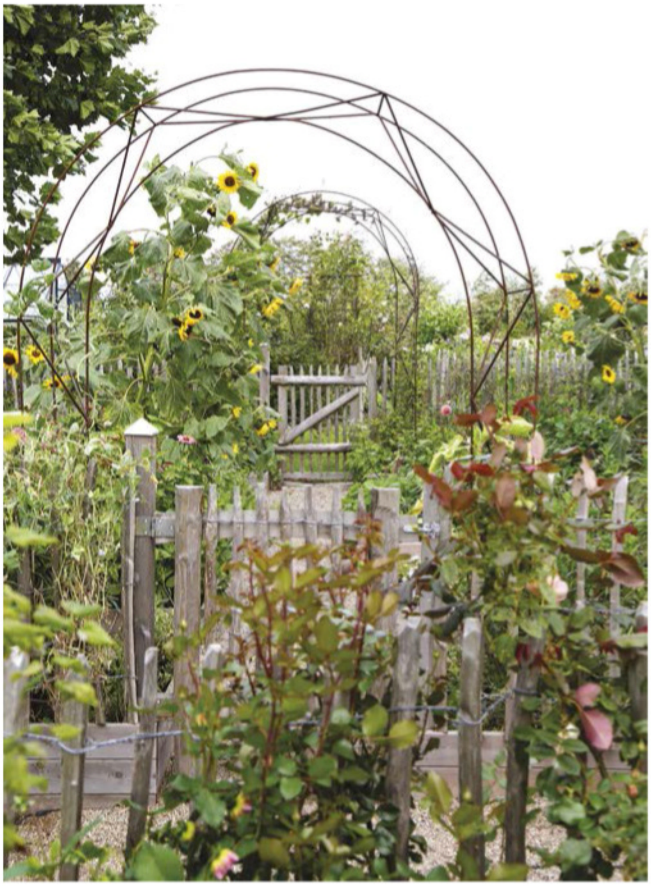
WRITTEN BY VIVIAN CHRISTENSEN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
TINE GERTSEN/COCO FEATURES

Floral Field of Dreams

Tour an enchanting cut-flower garden in Denmark.

JANE'S FLOWER UNIVERSE. Jane's dream of a cut-flower garden surrounded by structures made of old windows and pallets has come true.





FENCED AND ARCHED. The idyllic property is surrounded by fencing made of chestnut with several arches adorning the property for "climbers and creepers," as Jane lovingly calls them.

Imagine being surrounded by bright, colorful flowers every day in your life and work. Jane Wittrock is doing just that. She has created enchanting and evocative gardens where visitors come nearly all year round to pick their own bouquets of flowers for an unforgettable experience.

Jane lives in the beautiful countryside of Sjælland, Denmark, surrounded by green fields, on a plot of land measuring 21,000 square feet, with most of the plot used for the flower garden. Jane also tends to a wide variety of perennials and rosebeds, but her primary focus is her cut-flower garden.

The joy of growing her own flowers and vegetables has always been an integral part of Jane's life, but the dream of having an expansive garden only started to come to fruition more recently. In 2016, Jane's husband renovated an old outbuilding to create the orangery that measures about 380 square feet. This is where Jane has her flower workshop and does her seed planting for pre-sprouting, makes fresh bouquets, creates floral décor and fashions wreaths. The orangery has been furnished with marvelous flea market finds and it is in use all year round. It's big enough for the entire family and a wood stove was installed to make it warm in winter.

FLORAL DISPLAYS. This collage of fabulous cut-flower containers will inspire you to try different creative floral arrangements.

Grow Your Own *Cutting Garden*

Jane shares her favorite planting and care advice.

- The most important reminder for a great cutting garden is to keep picking the flowers! Once the plant forms seeds it will stop blooming, so the more you pick, the more you get for beautiful bouquets.
- Sow your plants close together to encourage taller stems, which are best for bouquets.
- Paths between the beds made with gravel, mulch or stones make for easier weeding and picking.

PREP AREA. Jane uses her greenhouse for growing vegetables in the winter and sprouting seeds in the spring for the garden.

"Working with flowers gives me so much joy, inner peace and fresh energy," Jane says.

Jane's garden offers flowers from early spring until the autumn frost sets in. She grows her flowers as naturally as possible outdoors, without using fertilizers and pesticides, to protect the animals and the environment. The selection varies depending on the season, including daffodils and tulips in spring, and summer flowers, perennials and dahlias in the summer. She dries many of the flowers for later use.

Several times a year, Jane offers workshops in the garden and orangery, where her students can pick their own bouquets and receive instruction on how to tie them. She is happy to give tips and ideas to those who want to plant their own cutting gardens, even selling bundles of seeds from her garden. CB

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JANE, VISIT HER ON INSTAGRAM **@JANEHORNBLL** AND ON FACEBOOK AT **JANES BLOMSTERUNIVERS**.

Top 5 Floral Picks *for a Cutting Garden*

These botanicals are Jane's perennial favorites.

1. DAHLIA
One of the best things about growing dahlias is how abundantly they bloom. Dahlias start flowering in midsummer and continue blooming non-stop right through the fall. Just plant the tubers in spring and prepare to be amazed! You can keep the tubers from year to year. Dig them up after the first night of frost and keep them dry and frost-free in the winter.

2. COSMOS
Without exception, this is the most rewarding flower is in the cutting garden: the more you cut, the more flowers the plant produces. A big bouquet of cosmos is pure happiness!

3. SCABIOSA
This is a hardy perennial, especially when you like to tie bouquets. 'Scabiosa ochroleuca' blooms with a sea of cream-colored beautiful flowers from early summer until late autumn. Both the flowers and seeds are suitable in bouquets.

4. DELPHINIUM
A shrub-like perennial that belongs to the buttercup family, delphinium gets the most beautiful flowers, called spires. When used in bouquets it exudes a nostalgic touch, reminiscent of vintage gardens.

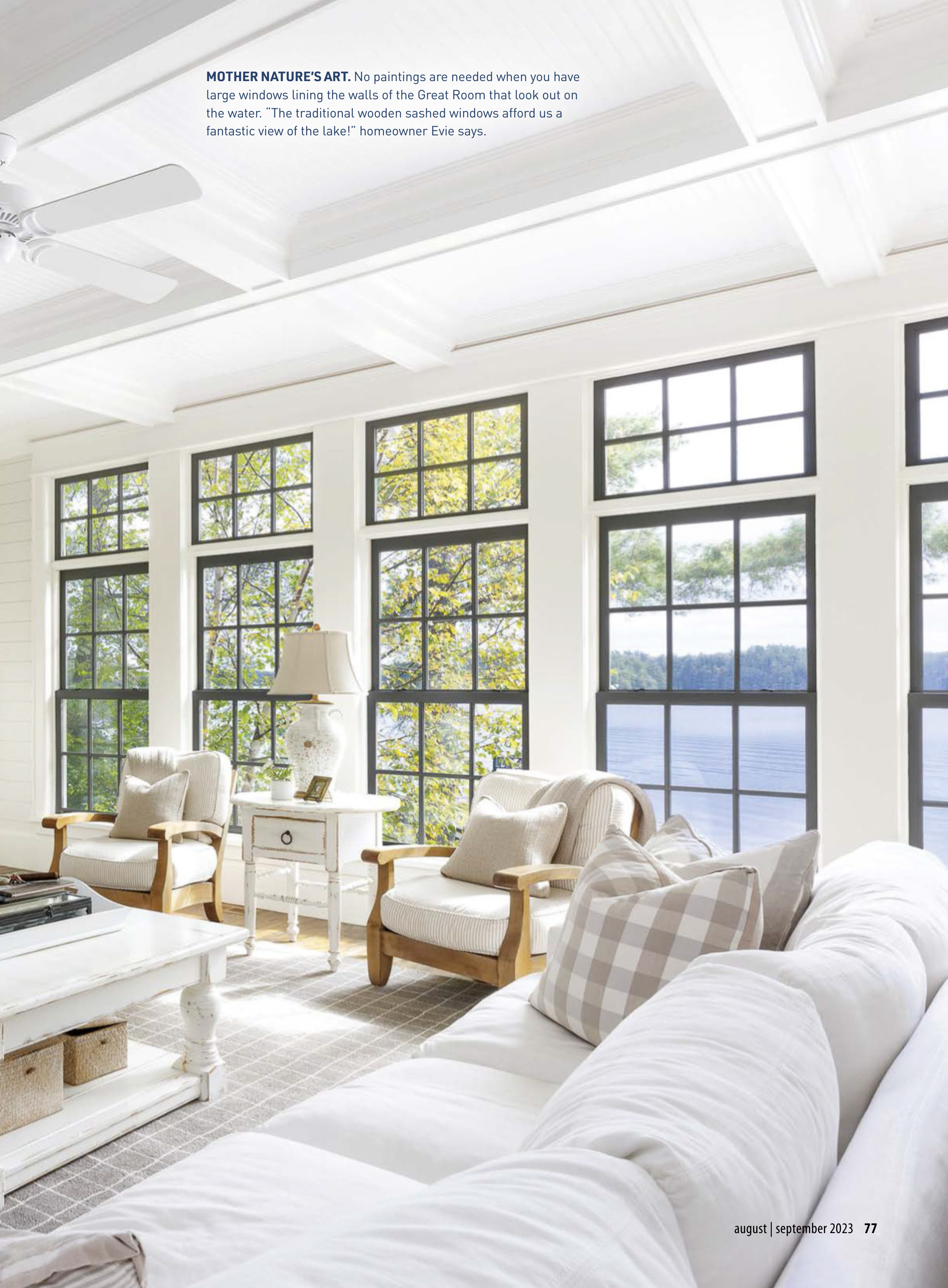
5. DAUCUS CAROTA
'Dara' (wild carrot flower) is decorative, light and romantic. When deflowering, the flower curls into a very decorative ball.

GATHERED FOR GATHERING. There is room for workshops and gatherings in the large orangery. Old tables and chairs from the flea marked are used for crafting classes and casual family get-togethers, too.

WRITTEN BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SABRINA GROOMES

Summer Living on the Lake

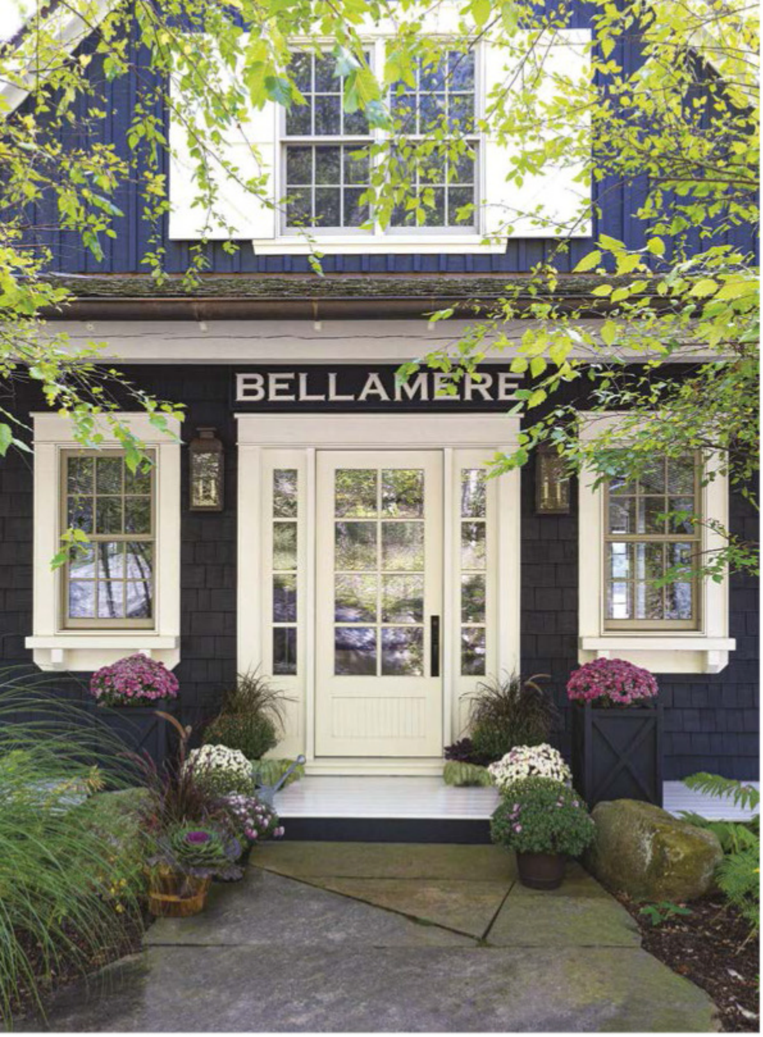
A cottage farmhouse in Canada is the foundation for making family memories.



MOTHER NATURE'S ART. No paintings are needed when you have large windows lining the walls of the Great Room that look out on the water. "The traditional wooden sashed windows afford us a fantastic view of the lake!" homeowner Evie says.

BELLAMERE

BELLAMERE

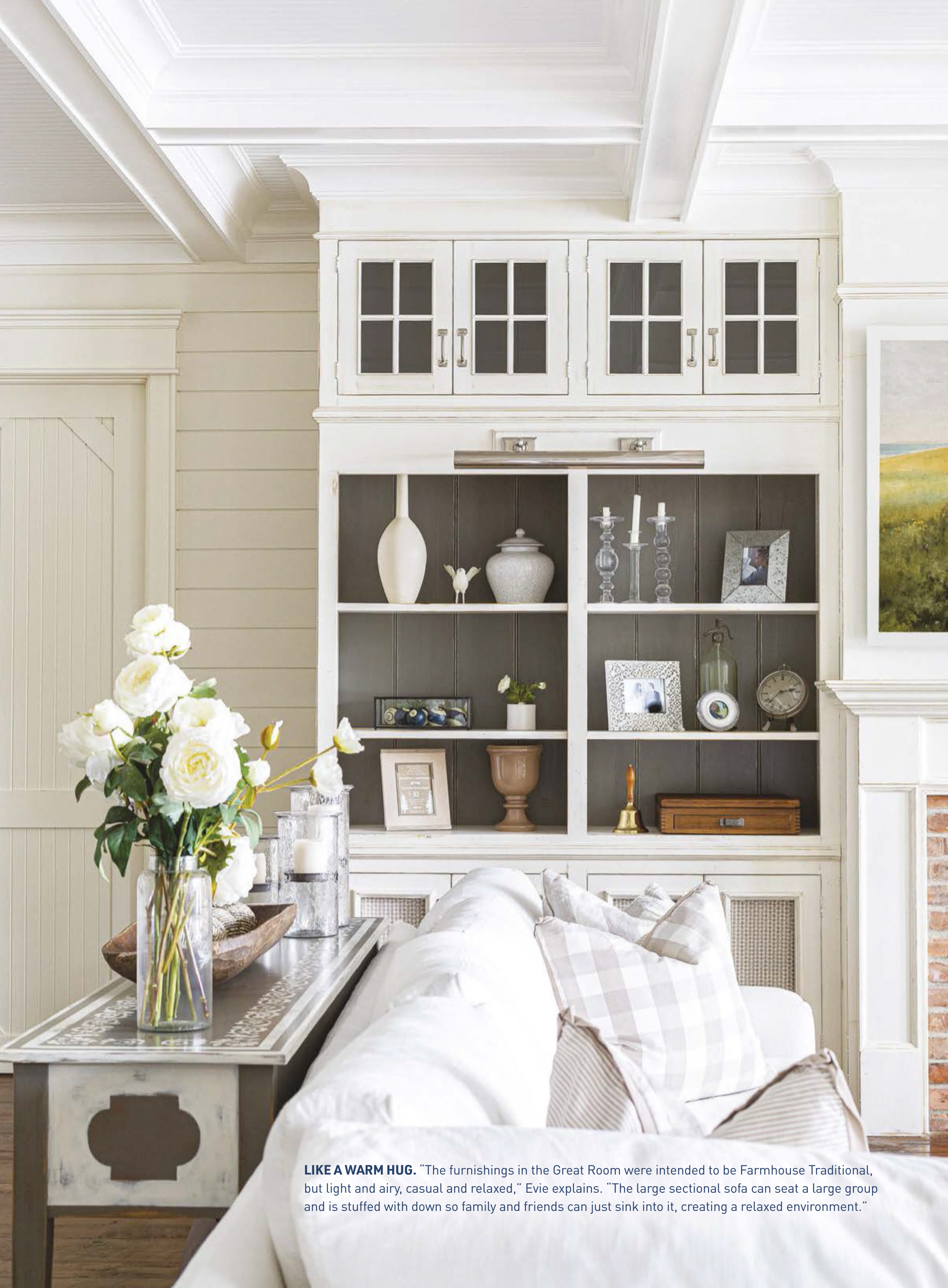


ORGANIC COLOR STORY. "The windows and accents are a stormy gray (not black) with shades of white, much like what you would find in the forest that surrounds the cottage," Evie says.

There is a lovely cottage farmhouse overlooking Lake Muskoka in Ontario, Canada, that was appropriately and affectionately bestowed with the name "Bellamere" by its owners. "Because the cottage is on Lake Muskoka and has a beautiful view of the lake, the cottage is called Bellamere, which means 'beautiful lake' in Italian," explains homeowner Evie, a retired teacher, adding, "Cottages on the Muskoka Lakes were originally named to help captains with navigation."

The Victorian-style cottage farmhouse showcases old Muskoka and nautical details. Built circa 2011, it has eight bedrooms and three master bedrooms, one on each floor, to accommodate the three generations of family members who reside there. It was designed by Cory DeFrancisco of Muskoka Living Interiors "to capture the old character of cottages, full of little nooks and crannies where you can go to escape."

While the Port Carling home is fully winterized with a generator and can be enjoyed all year round, Evie and her husband, Michael, have designated it as their summer residence. "For us, this is a vacation property. It's where we spend most of the summer," Evie says. "However, each season brings its own unique ways to enjoy the house and the Muskoka area."



LIKE A WARM HUG. "The furnishings in the Great Room were intended to be Farmhouse Traditional, but light and airy, casual and relaxed," Evie explains. "The large sectional sofa can seat a large group and is stuffed with down so family and friends can just sink into it, creating a relaxed environment."

| **TOP, LEFT** | **TEXTILE MESSAGE.** Soft furnishings were key to making the rooms look and feel cozy and inviting.

| **TOP, RIGHT** | **FARMHOUSE FIREPLACE.** Evie likes that the red brick fireplace is reminiscent of an old farmhouse.

| **RIGHT** | **PERFECTLY IMPERFECT.** "The reclaimed hemlock floors, with all their imperfections, give the entire cottage a homey, lived-in feeling.," Evie says.

FAMILY STYLE

"Our cottage was designed to be warm and cozy. I wanted the grandkids to be respectful, but at the same time be able to run and play, and not have to worry if anything broke or got dirty," Evie says. With the focus on family, it may come as a surprise to learn that most of the soft furnishings are white. "While you might think that this would not be very kid- or pet-friendly, it is quite the opposite," Evie says. "All the fabrics are machine washable. If something spills or sticky hands end up on the furniture, off come the slipcovers and into the wash they go. A little bleach can do wonders!"

The home's architectural and interior-design team is based in the Muskoka area, so they knew how to build, design and style every aspect to achieve its fullest potential from the ground up. "The house was designed, built and mostly furnished by Muskoka Living Interiors," Evie explains. "The furnishings were intended to be farmhouse traditional, but light and airy, casual and relaxed. There are window coverings only in the bedrooms and bathrooms to let the view of our beautiful lake shine through the home."

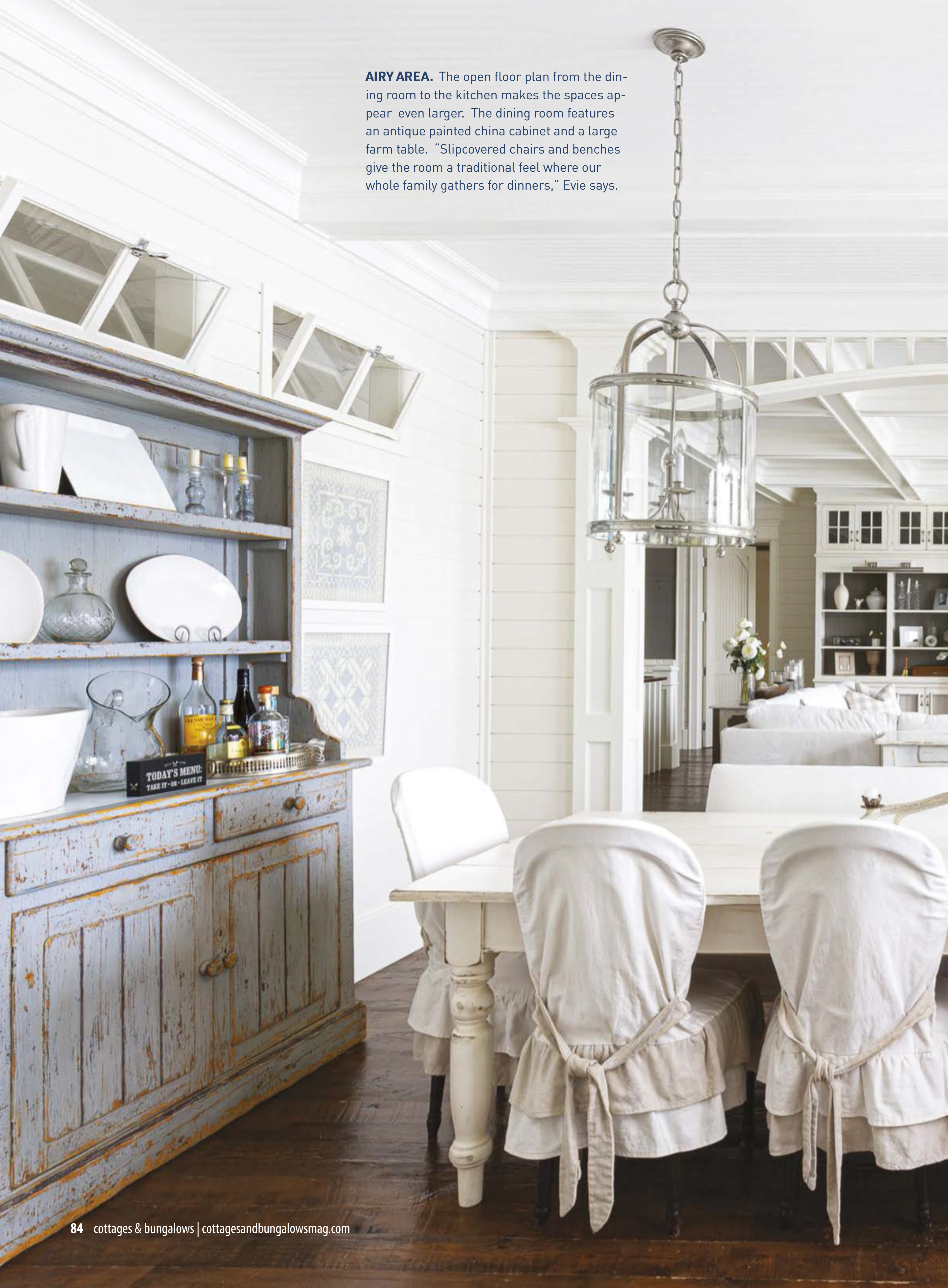
Feeling Right at Home

Evie shares her advice on designing and styling a vacation home.

- Make your home a part of the history and tradition of its location. So, in Muskoka I went for a traditional Muskoka look. In California, I'd go for a California look, in Arizona a modern Southwest look.
- Use colors and décor that are part of the local tradition to give your home a sense of place.
- Infuse your own personality in each room with personal touches.
- Make your home suit your lifestyle. It not only needs to look good, but it needs to function for you and your family.

|LEFT| MIXED MATERIALS. The kitchen's large work island has a wooden countertop and an inlayed square of marble for hot pots and pans. The white porcelain sink adds to the farmhouse feel.

ex·cel·len·cy (ek'sa lan sē)



AIRY AREA. The open floor plan from the dining room to the kitchen makes the spaces appear even larger. The dining room features an antique painted china cabinet and a large farm table. "Slipcovered chairs and benches give the room a traditional feel where our whole family gathers for dinners," Evie says.

> “All the fabrics are machine washable. If something spills or sticky hands end up on the furniture, off come the slipcovers *and into the wash they go.*”

| OPPOSITE | SLEEPING ON A CLOUD. The white, gray and beige color palette adds to the calm and relaxed feeling throughout the cottage, Evie says. "The trunk at the end of the bed is another antique piece from our early married life," she says. "The window seat in the master bedroom is another great place to read a magazine and just get away from it all."

"Because we are on Lake Muskoka, Muskoka Living designed the cottage with traditional furniture and accessories that capture lazy summer days as seen in the old-fashioned swing bed in the Muskoka Room. Being just steps away from the lake makes it very easy for the adults to supervise our grandkids, now 10, 8 and 3, as they run down the steps to the dock, jump into the lake, play on the water trampoline, go for a paddle board or jet ski."

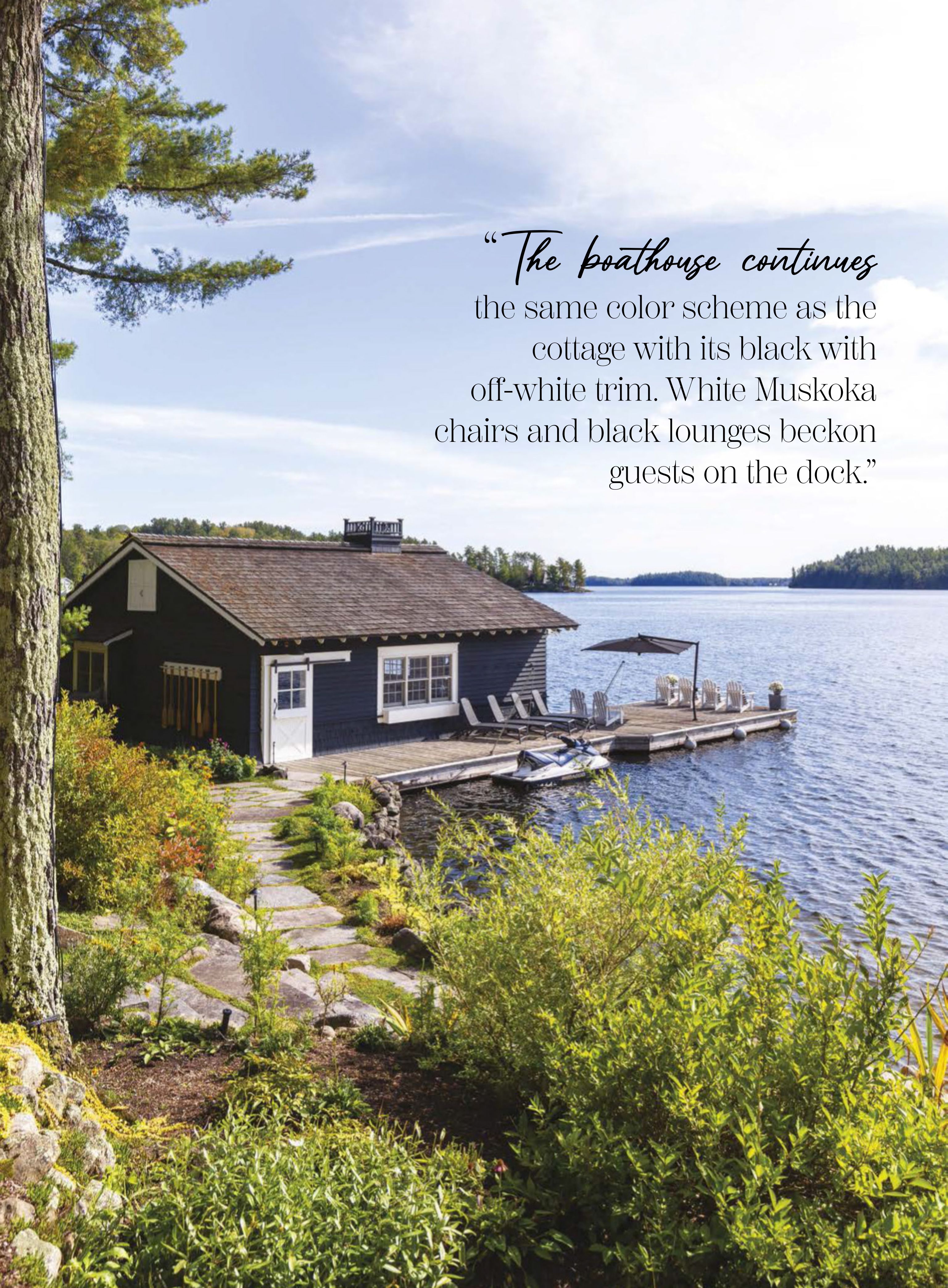
COLORS OF THE COTTAGE

While the interiors are painted predominantly in white, a mix of subtle and contrasting colors were used to complement the neutral background. "The color scheme is white and gray with natural touches throughout, much like what you would find in the forest which surrounds the cottage," Evie explains. "There are several shades of white paint throughout the house. The windows and accents are a stormy gray. The exterior is a dark black with off-white trim. The large front porch reminds me of an old country farmhouse with its cedar shake exterior and roof, exposed rafter tails and traditional millwork.

FAMILY FAVORITES

The Muskoka room is the favorite room in the house, Evie says. "The screened-in windows provide a lovely breeze off the lake even when it's really hot. It's where we serve appetizers from the kitchen window at 5 p.m. nightly and where people come to relax or just hang out. The swing in the Muskoka room is the best place to read a book or just cozy up and take a nap."

Another highlight of the home is the master bedroom and bathroom on the lower level, which were part of a recent renovation completed in 2020. "It was done to really make the cottage a multigenerational home. We now have three distinct living spaces for each of the three families," Evie explains. "With the help of The Studio – Alisa x Kailey in Toronto we were able to really mimic the style of the rest of the cottage down to the tiles, doors, trim and hardware so that someone coming in would have no idea that it wasn't part of the original plan. We opened up a window wall and turned it into a large glass sliding door in the kitchen to make barbecuing and outdoor dining more accessible. We also renovated the lower level and created a third master bedroom by moving a ping pong table and small gym out to the garage."



"The boathouse continues the same color scheme as the cottage with its black with off-white trim. White Muskoka chairs and black lounges beckon guests on the dock."

OUTER SPACES

The exterior is dark black with off-white trim. “The large front porch reminds me of an old country farmhouse with its cedar-shake exterior and roof, exposed rafter tails and traditional millwork,” Evie says. “We often sit in the Muskoka chairs on the porch and watch the grandkids play on the driveway. The cottage was designed to mimic the style of the old Muskoka cottages that were original to the area.”

The landscaping designs have special appeal to the homeowners. “Two of our favorite things about the cottage are its beautiful gardens and granite paths,” Evie says. “The cottage sits above the lake and large Muskoka rocks cascade down toward the water. This gives us the opportunity to view beautiful plantings that flower throughout the summer. Also, the dock and boathouse continue the same color scheme as the interior. The boathouse is black with off-white trim and the name ‘Bellamere’ at the top. White Muskoka chairs and black lounges sit on the dock where we spend many a lazy afternoon soaking in the Southern sun.”

Spending their summers at the cottage farmhouse by the lake sounds like the perfect setting for this multigenerational family to enjoy their time together in the present and dream about their plans for the future. CB

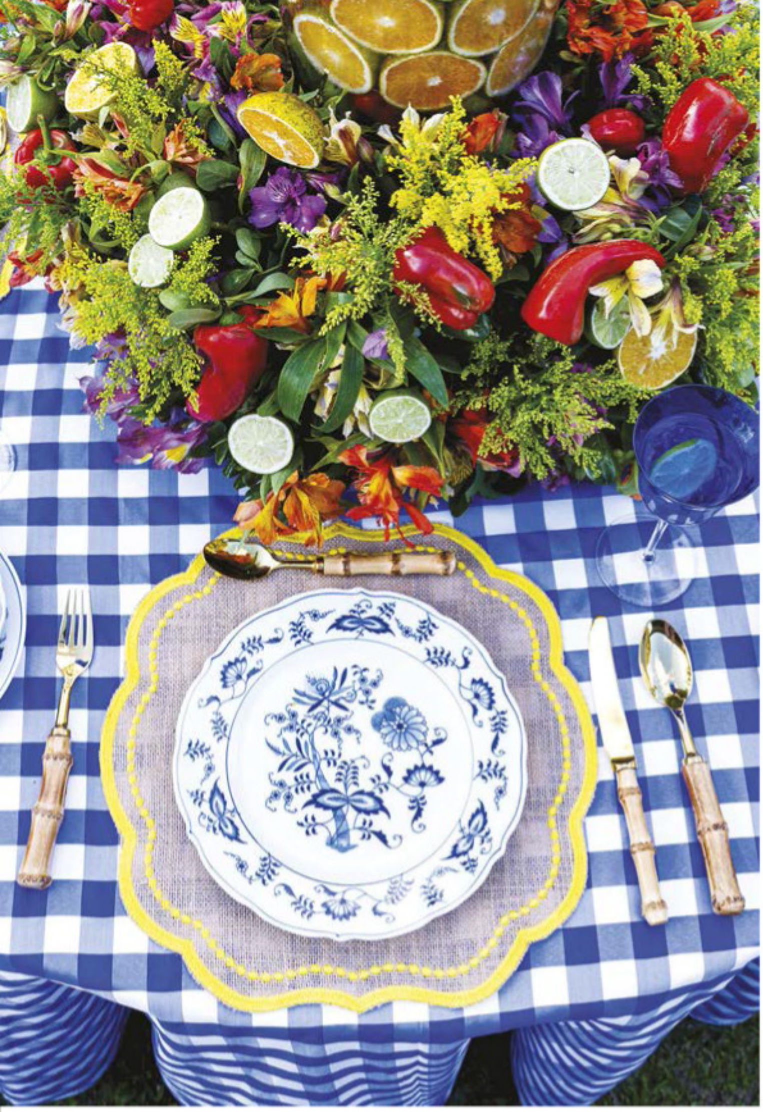
SEE SOURCES, PAGE 112

LIVING THE LAKE LIFE. White Muskoka chairs are strategically placed on the dock for relaxing in a front-row seat with the best view of the glorious lake and sky.

WRITTEN BY REBECCA LOTT
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELISA AMENGUAL
STYLED BY ANDREINA CHIRINOS PAOLI

Tablescape Travel to *Italy*

Transport your guests to a picturesque summer destination.



Andreina Chirinos Paoli, an interior designer and content creator, styled this beautiful tablescape to recreate summer dining alfresco in Italy for her family and friends. "For me, there is no special occasion needed to design a beautiful table and gather with my loved ones," she says.

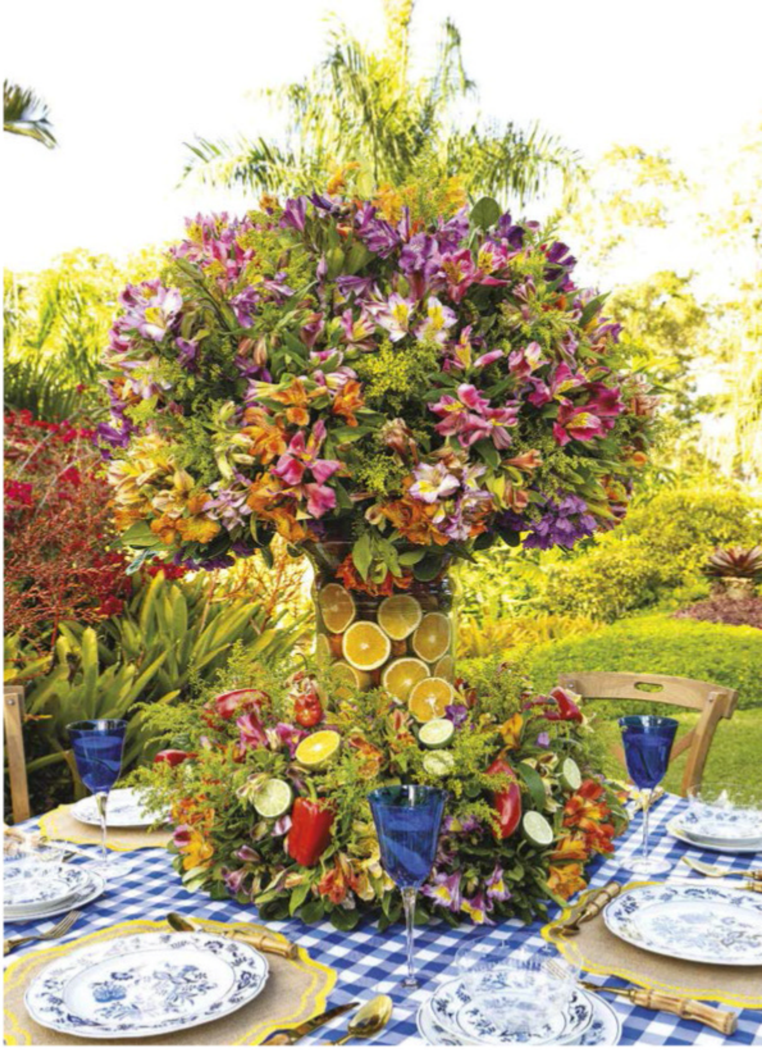
Now living in Connecticut, Andreina (@andreinacottage-style) vacations between her homeland, Venezuela, and Italy. She attributes her creativity to her father's side of the family, renowned plastic artists. "My passion for beautiful tables is inherited from my grandmother and mother, because I grew up in a family in which sitting down to eat at a beautiful table every day was the norm," she says.

Andreina gets her tablescape inspirations from photos, drawings and color palettes. "There is always a starting point when designing. I make a careful choice about each of the elements that will make up my table," she says. "Closing your eyes and imagining Italy's narrow and picturesque streets, the blue of its sea and the striking colors of its street markets is wonderful inspiration."

Make It *Memorable*

Andreina's best tips for setting a stylish tablescape.

1. Develop a nice color palette and have fun combining.
2. Use a vintage element to add character.
3. Make your table visually interesting.
4. Mix textures and materials.
5. Avoid using strongly scented flowers and candles.
6. Match your menu to the décor of your table.
7. Play music with the appropriate volume.
8. Always iron your tablecloth and napkins before setting.



Summer
in
Positano

Andreina and florist Carla (@floresbycarlacandia) created a three-part design for the stunning centerpiece. They used a tall, bowl-shaped vase and placed fruit and vegetables around it to cover the empty space at the base. They placed the main vase on a Lazy Susan, which made it easier for them to arrange it from all angles as they turned it. They lined the base with lemons and placed a thin, empty cylinder inside the main vase. Then they added a layer of sweet peppers, sliced oranges and bell peppers. The top had to lay flat for the plate with oasis. To complete the work of art, they placed the flowers in the soaked oasis to keep them fresh.

Andreina is certainly not afraid to use color in her table designs. "I have no limitation to use any color when designing, but blue is definitely my favorite," she says. "It reminds me of the color of the sea and my roots. We used pink, yellow and orange alstroemerias and asters to give it movement."

Could the centerpiece be recreated on a smaller scale? "Using white and blue plates; blue glasses; and a glass cylinder full of bell peppers, tomatoes, lemons and oranges as a centerpiece with some small flower arrangements in bright colors will achieve this look instantly," Andreina says.

The goal for Andreina is to create a statement piece that will transport her guests to the place she imagined. "It is a blank canvas where you are the artist," she says. "A beautiful table must be enjoyed by all the senses. The alfresco tables are always my favorite. For me, tables must be a true experience, more than just decoration." CB

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 112

Mushroom Carpaccio *with Toast*

Andreina shares her favorite family recipe.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Vintage dish
- Sliced mushrooms (approximately 2 cups)
- 1 pot of mayonnaise (finding out from Andreina what size)
- 1 Tablespoon mustard
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- Pepper to taste
- 1.5 cups of parmesan cheese
- Toast
- Fresh basil

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

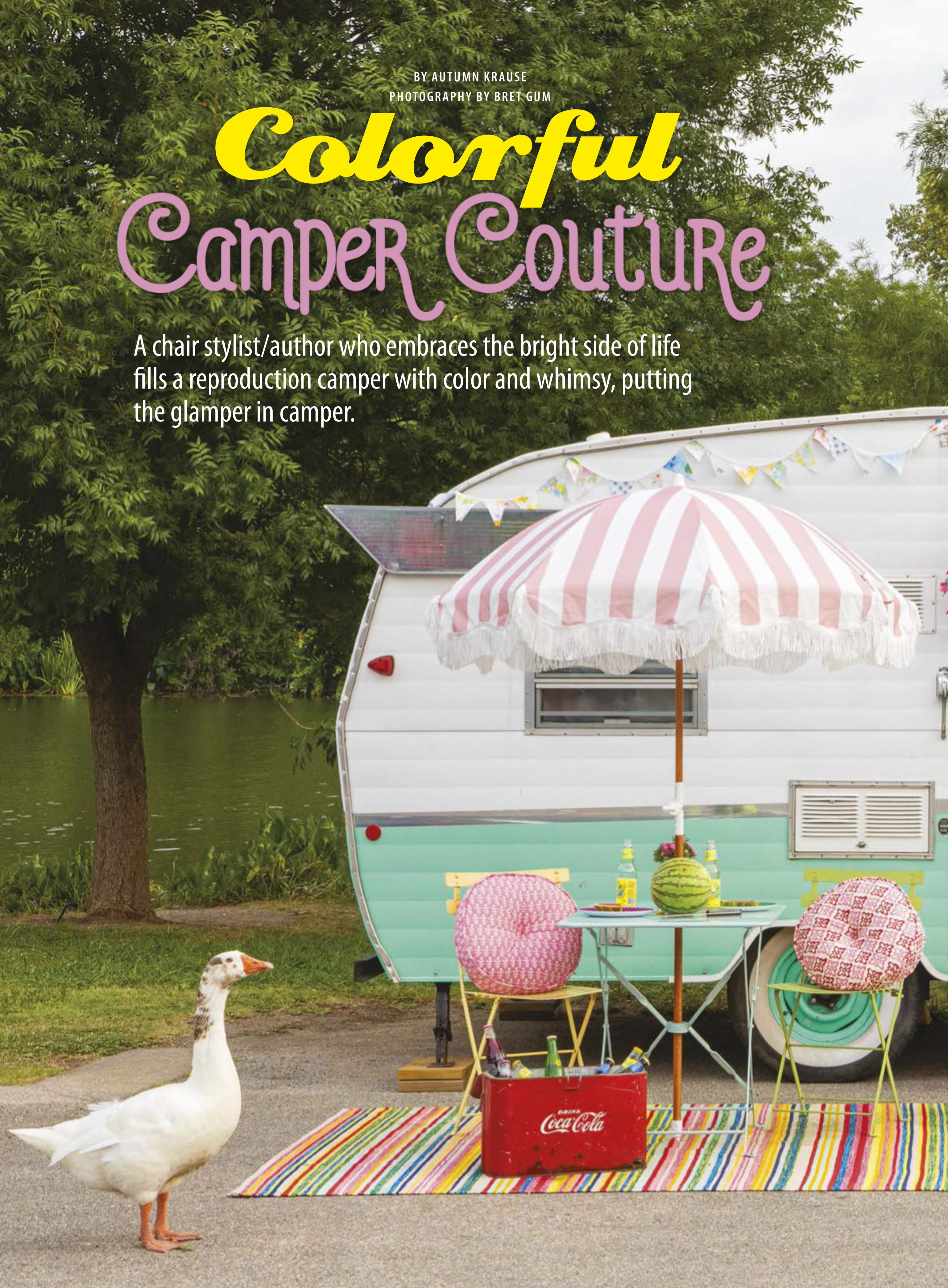
1. Mix together in a bowl the mayonnaise, mustard, sliced mushrooms, olive oil, grated cheese and pepper.
2. Place in a vintage dish.
3. Garnish with chopped fresh basil and serve with toast.

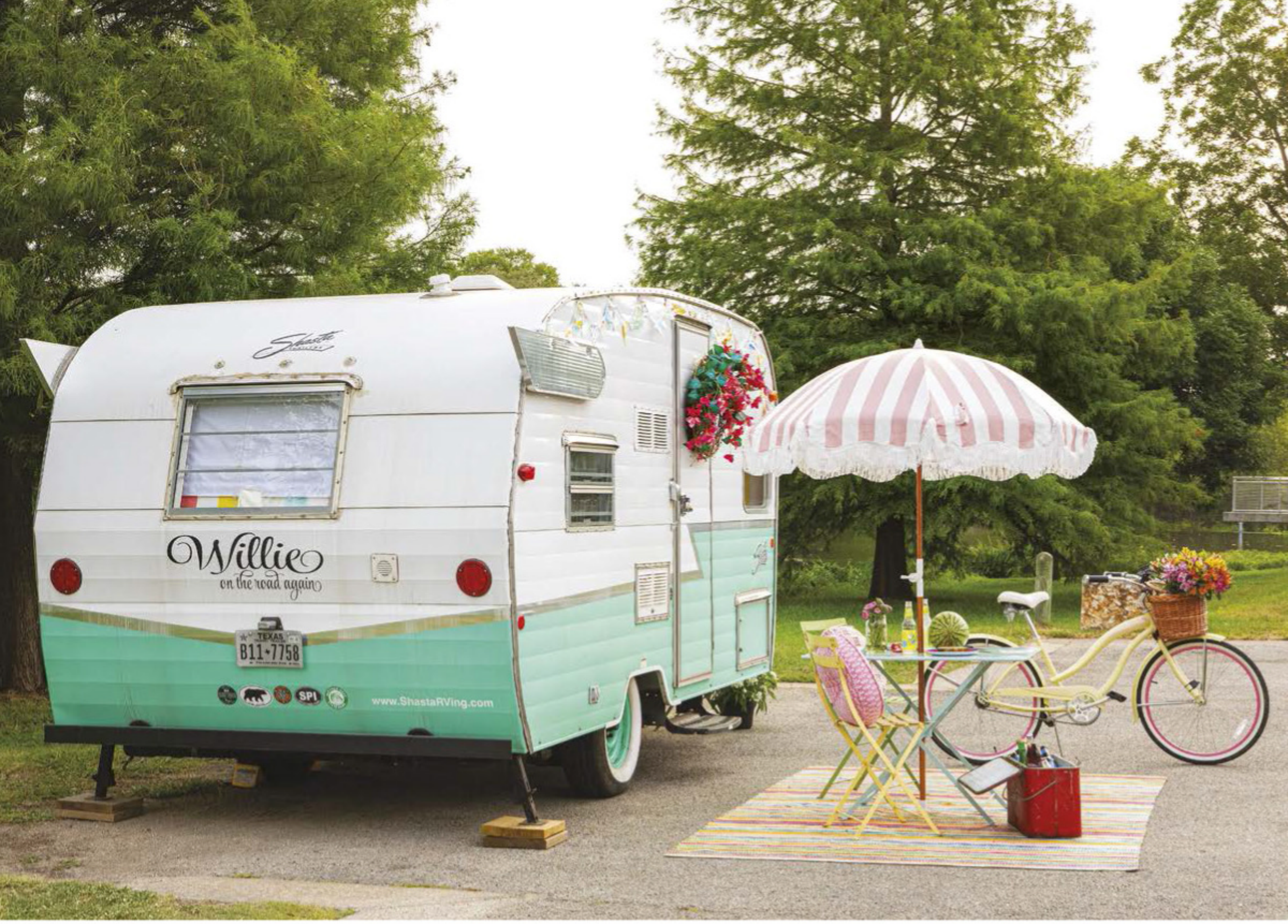
BY AUTUMN KRAUSE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM

Colorful Camper Couture

A chair stylist/author who embraces the bright side of life fills a reproduction camper with color and whimsy, putting the glamper in camper.




Willie
on the road again
TEXAS
B11-7758
SPI
www.ShastaRVing.com

HAPPY CAMPER. The Shasta reissue campers come in three colors: yellow, red and turquoise—and Wendy liked all those colors. "When I first saw the camper in person, I knew I loved it and the hue was perfect," she says. Even this curious visitor couldn't resist a peek at the camper.

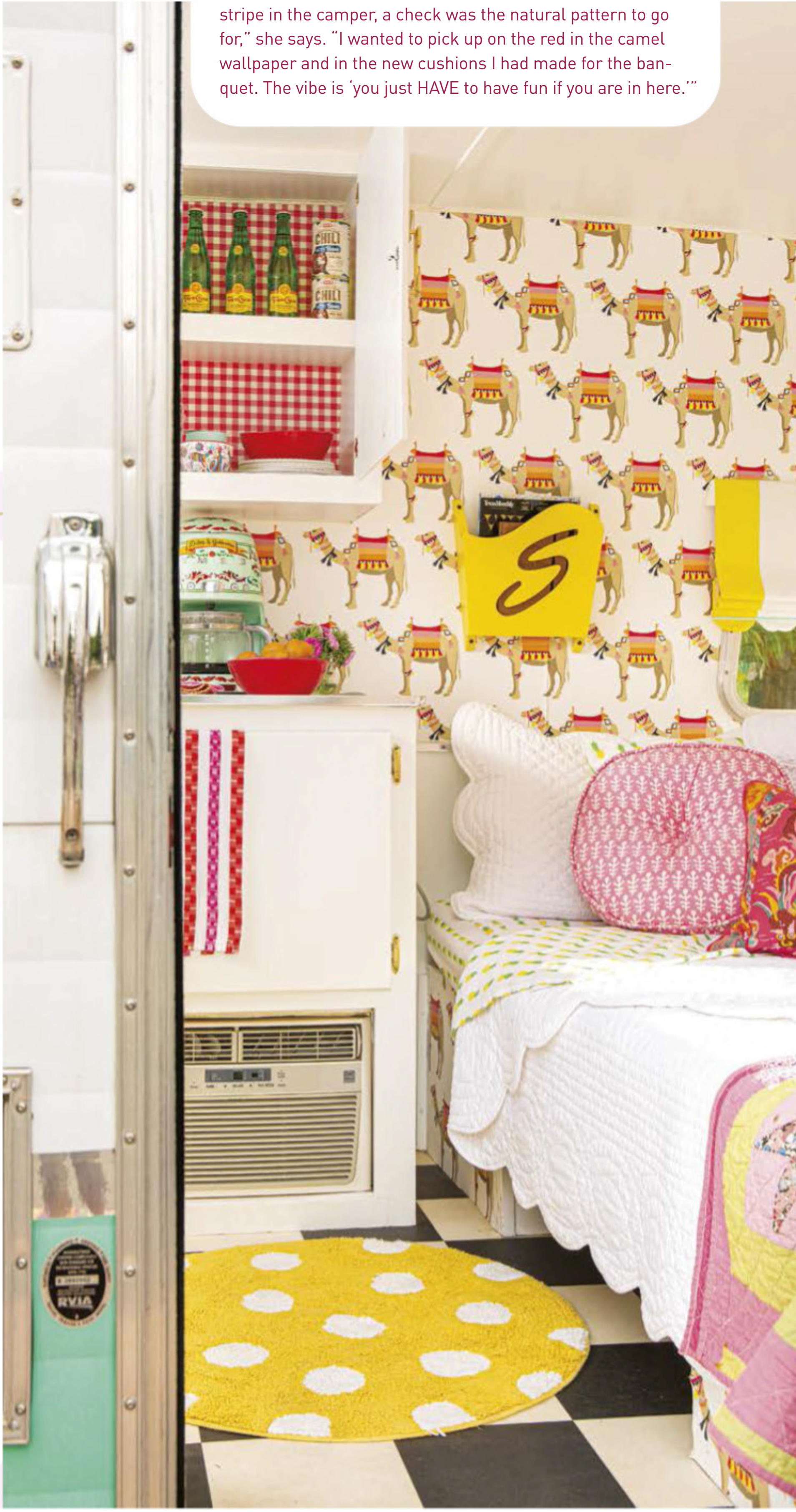
Shasta
TRAILERS

When the world slowed to a stop during the 2020 pandemic and Wendy Conklin of Round Rock, Texas, found herself with canceled traveled plans she decided to get a little creative. And getting creative is as natural as breathing for Wendy, who is the founder of Chair Whimsy and is an author and chair stylist known for her effervescently bright and happy aesthetic.

Camper Life

A camper is a big investment, so Wendy is here to share a few insider tips to help you if you are considering taking the plunge into camper life.

- **PUMP THE BRAKES.** If you've never had a camper before, don't spend a lot of money on one before knowing if you will like it or not. "Before purchasing a big one, think about the stress of hauling a long camper," Wendy says. "Taking sharp curves around a mountain is not for the faint of heart if your camper is really long!"
- **MODERN OVER MOD.** Vintage campers have stylish appeal but, if you aren't a renovator, consider investing in a reproduction style camper. "I would have loved an old camper, but we needed a functioning bathroom, and we are not equipped to service an old engine or fix mechanical issues," Wendy says. If you get a reproduction camper, all you need to worry about is decorating it and hitting the road.
- **FIND IT ON FACEBOOK.** Facebook Marketplace is where Wendy found her camper. Not only is it a good place to look for campers, it's also an efficient way to research them as well and see different specs and options at a discounted price. "There are plenty of campers to be had on FB Marketplace, especially if you are willing to travel to get it," Wendy shares.



PATTERN PLAY. Wendy adores checks and experimenting with pattern play in her spaces. "And since I already had a stripe in the camper, a check was the natural pattern to go for," she says. "I wanted to pick up on the red in the camel wallpaper and in the new cushions I had made for the banquet. The vibe is 'you just HAVE to have fun if you are in here.'"

DELIGHTFUL DINING. Roomy benches and pillows for comfort as well as accents were a no-brainer. "I chose as many different patterns and colors as I could to tie to the overall space," Wendy says. "Then my dishes had to be fun too! Why not have fun dishes when you are camping (as well as gold flatware!)?" She felt like she could go over the top since it was a recreational vehicle and she enjoyed doing so—to delightful results!

* * *

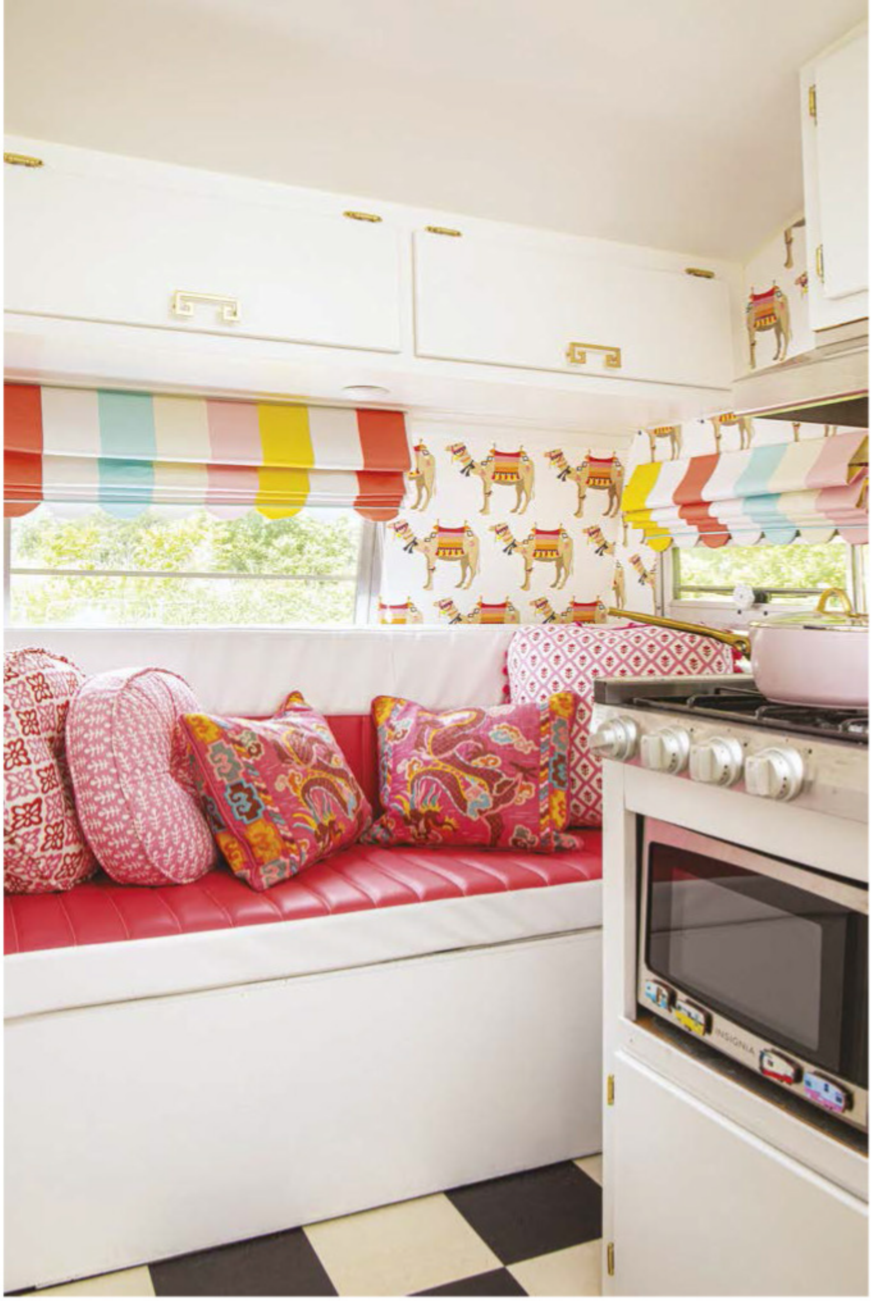
"Late that summer of 2020, my husband and I decided to buy a camper so we could safely travel," Wendy says. It was a big purchase—the couple weren't sure they were "RV people" and didn't have previous experience with campers. But after much contemplation and many conversations, they decided to take the plunge and purchase a 16 ft Shasta Reissue off Facebook Marketplace for $14.5k ($5k under their $15k budget!).

They prepped the camper the following month, learning all the technical aspects of hookups and giving it a deep clean. Since the camper is made to look vintage but isn't actually old, it didn't have any mechanical issues, making it friendly for first-time camper owners. As they got the camper ready, Wendy began thinking about redecorating it and planning out her design decisions. She painted the inside, wallpapered it, and had new cushions and curtains made for it.

Wendy's surroundings have a great deal to do with her happiness and color makes her happy so, naturally, the camper is bursting with every shade of the rainbow. "I wanted a whimsical camper and that's what I ended up with," Wendy says. "It was all driven by a Katie Kime Camel Wallpaper that I just couldn't get out of my mind. I took the color scheme from that wallpaper to create the rest of the space." Some might get nervous at such

"I wanted a Whimsical camper and that's what I ended up with."

WHITE SPACE. Since there is so much pattern all over the camper, Wendy needed some white space. "The Annie Selke white quilt gave that to me. But then, of course, the pillows create color. I used an antique quilt at the base and tiny pineapple printed sheets," she says.



an explosion of hues in a small space, but Wendy is an expert at color and pattern mixing and gives her camper's interior room to breathe by building off white. "White is a great backdrop to layering color. It also helps the eye to rest as you bounce from color to color within the space and that's exactly how I used it here," she says.

Now, she and her husband are living colorfully ever after in the camper as they take it for trips while being reminded of how it let them get out and explore nature during a time of worldwide hardship. As Wendy says, "We've just had a blast." CB

TO SEE MORE OF WENDY'S HOME, CAMPER AND BUSINESS, VISIT HER ON INSTAGRAM **@CHAIRWHIMSY** AND **CHAIRWHIMSY.COM**.

The Art of CURATING

Nothing gives a room its soul like artwork. Cara Fox of The Fox Group discusses how she curates and displays art to create warm and dynamic spaces.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSE | PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FOX GROUP

Art speaks to Cara Fox's heart—an inheritance from her artist mother. "I was raised and taught to see valuable worthwhile art and true talent," shares Cara, the owner of The Fox Group. Whether she is finding the perfect piece of art for a client's home or for her shop, The Fox Shop, it's a work of love and passion for Cara.

ART MARKET. When sourcing from anywhere, make sure it's a reputable gallery or source. Antique art is gaining so much popularity recently and it's been especially fun for Cara to go to Europe and curate it. "We are heading to Switzerland next week for this very purpose," she says.

| **ABOVE, LEFT** | **HIGH CONTRAST.** Some may naturally match their art to a room's color palette, but Cara never does. "Art is just so versatile that it can go anywhere," she says. "The thing that matters most is how happy it makes your heart to have it in that space."

| **ABOVE, RIGHT** | **CHOICES, CHOICES.** Cara herself curates every piece in The Fox Shop and loves featuring original artwork. "We add new pieces every month," she says. "There is always a new artwork to transport our customers into new worlds with a single glance." Cara is shown here with artist Patti Christensen (left).

| **RIGHT** | **STATE OF ART.** Hanging artwork at the right height is essential for a room's aesthetic flow. Cara says, "Avoid hanging art too high above eye level. Hung at the right height, art will move the eye around in a pleasing way."

A HEART FOR ART

When it comes to curating art for a client, Cara considers their feelings, interests and personality. First, she makes sure all selections have artistic value and high composition, applying the principles she learned from her mother. Then, she shows her clients different pieces, keeping a keen eye on their reaction.

"Every time I present an artwork to a client, I watch to see what their emotional response is," Cara says. "Any meaningful response that evokes love or memories is what I want for a client's home, especially since they will see the art every day." She firmly believes that art is personal and what someone loves doesn't mean everyone else or someone else will too—and that's why she works so hard to find the right pieces suited for her clients.

Project House *Part 4*

ART STORE

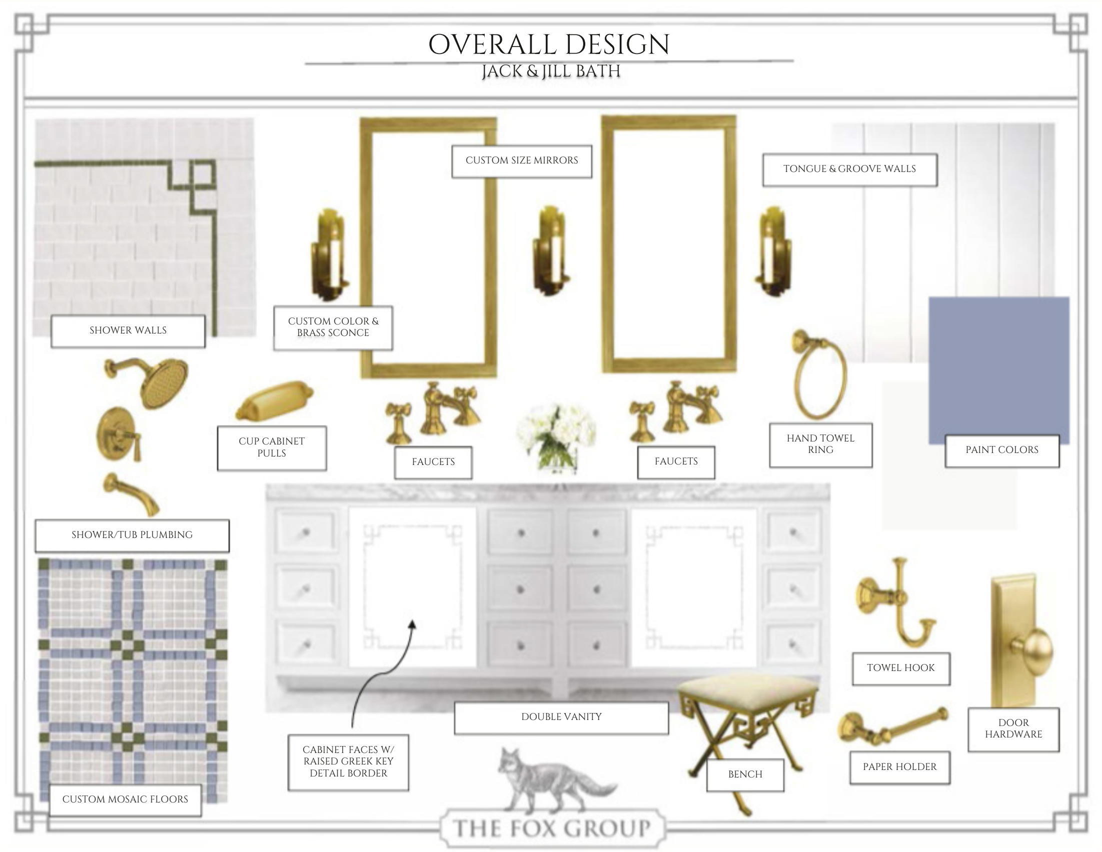
Art is one of the main reasons Cara and her husband opened The Fox Shop and it is their biggest selling category. The areas dedicated to art have the magical feeling of an art museum. "It's wonderful because we work with local artists and artists all over the world," Cara says. "We probably get about at least two inquiries from artists a week about putting their pieces in our shop." This means The Fox Shop has an extensive range of offerings. Landscapes and portraits as well as modern, abstract or classic pieces, all in a variety of mediums from oils to watercolors to even charcoal sketches fill the shop with their stunning images.

"Our selection process is based on the raw potential of an artist," Cara says. "I can usually tell within 30 seconds of looking at a portfolio whether we want to carry them. It's been amazing and a neat opportunity to meet such talented people in my own community and all around the world!"

FAMILY AFFAIR. Since Cara's mother was an oil painter, art has always been near and dear to Cara's heart, a way of connecting with her heritage while helping families express themselves in their homes. She sees the art offered in The Fox Shop as cherished heirlooms for future generations.

Progress in Utah

Despite one of the snowiest winters on record in Utah, our Project House is taking shape! Here, the design team shares their vision board for the Jack-n-Jill bathroom that will beautifully highlight pieces from our generous sponsors.


OVERALL DESIGN
JACK & JILL BATH
CUSTOM SIZE MIRRORS
TONGUE & GROOVE WALLS
SHOWER WALLS
CUSTOM COLOR & BRASS SCONCE
CUP CABINET PULLS
FAUCETS
FAUCETS
HAND TOWEL RING
PAINT COLORS
SHOWER/TUB PLUMBING
TOWEL HOOK
DOUBLE VANITY
DOOR HARDWARE
PAPER HOLDER
CABINET FACES W/ RAISED GREEK KEY DETAIL BORDER
BENCH
CUSTOM MOSAIC FLOORS
THE FOX GROUP

EMTEK. | woodgrain | Schaub | CHRISTOPHER SCOTT CABINETRY • DESIGN

Going Online. The Fox Shop has an online gallery of easily shoppable artwork, all photographed in frames for inspiration and helpfully categorized, from still life to seasonal to religious to local. "It helps customers find the right pieces that reflect them," Cara says.

Did you know

that the term "giclee" is a fine-art print created by using a specialized high-resolution inkjet printer? It produces high-quality prints that last and often increase in value over time.

FRAMED!

In general, Cara loves a classic, thick gold frame for art, but she says certain pieces need black frames—or even no frames at all. "It all depends on the mood and vibe of the actual piece. I think a classic home should have all types of art: modern, abstract and classic," she says.

Art is in the eye of the beholder and when you find just the right art for your home, it truly becomes yours.

VISIT **THEFOXSHOP.CO** TO FIND YOUR PERFECT ART PIECES.

BY DANI GRACE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LOHMAN

Small Homes With Big Style

Inspiring décor ideas are featured in Fifi O'Neill's new book on making the most of limited living space.

36
Maison
Boudonnais
36
BOULANGERIE · PATISSERIE

| ABOVE, LEFT | SWEET SITTIN'. This Solvang, California, home balances farmhouse charm with contemporary functionality for a timeless look. Whether it's a delightful book, a sundowner, the California weather or a conversation with friends, this modest porch provides plenty of room to enjoy life's finer things.

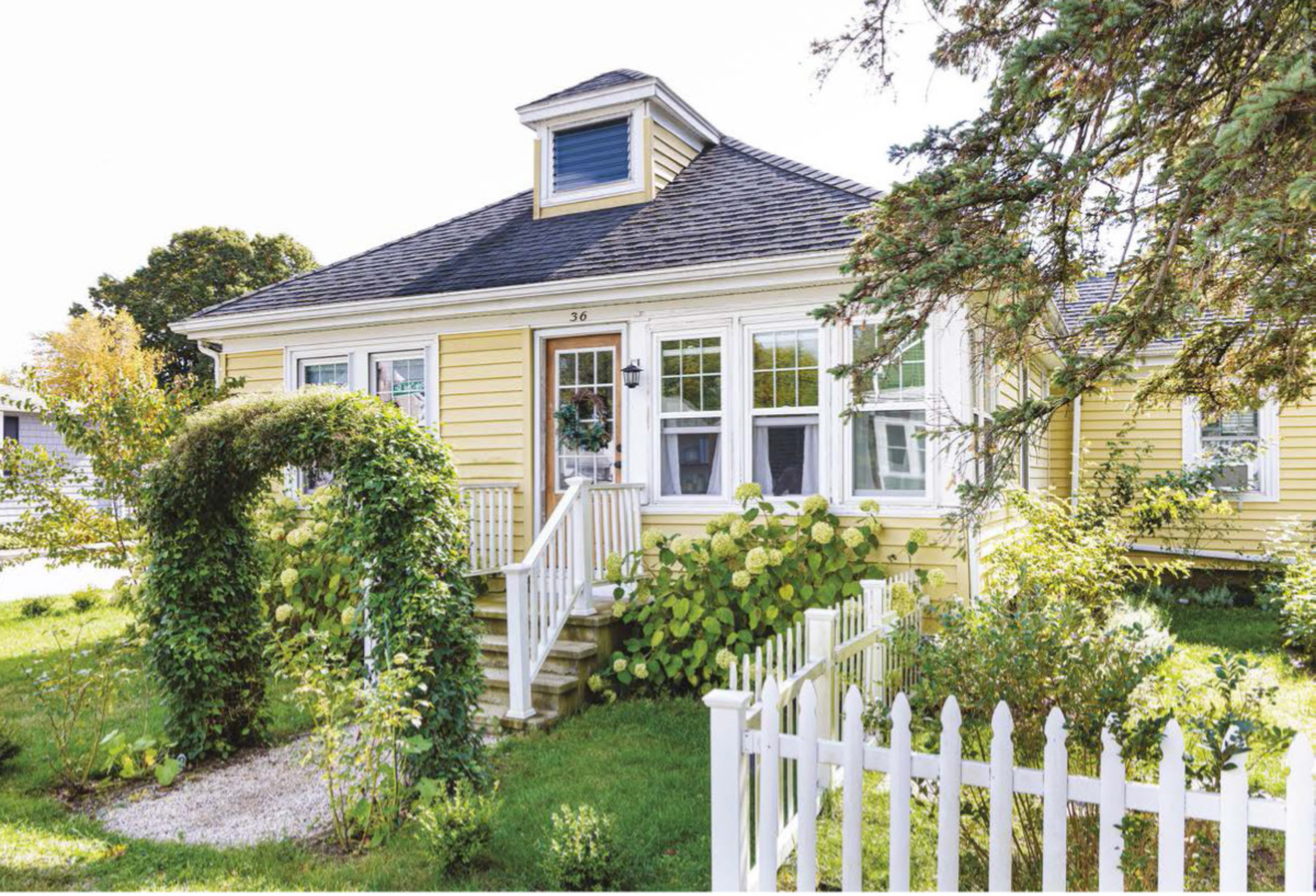
| ABOVE, RIGHT | COLOR FLOOD. A monochrome color palette keeps things bright on this Rhode Island porch. These shades of blue have us feeling anything but, with a painted midcentury-style floor pattern, plump cushions and antiques presenting an inviting and exciting environment.

| RIGHT | NOWHERE BUT UP. When every room juggles multiple identities, the walls are your friends, so don't be afraid to use them, O'Neill writes. Hooks or knobs, wall shelves, built-in cabinetry and any other wall-affixing tool keeps clutter off the ground and countertops.

| OPPOSITE | CONNECT WITH NATURE. This back porch alludes to its natural surroundings with fresh oak, neutral furniture and a chandelier that has become the homeowner's family heirloom. A variety of plants keeps the area sprightly and connected with surrounding nature.

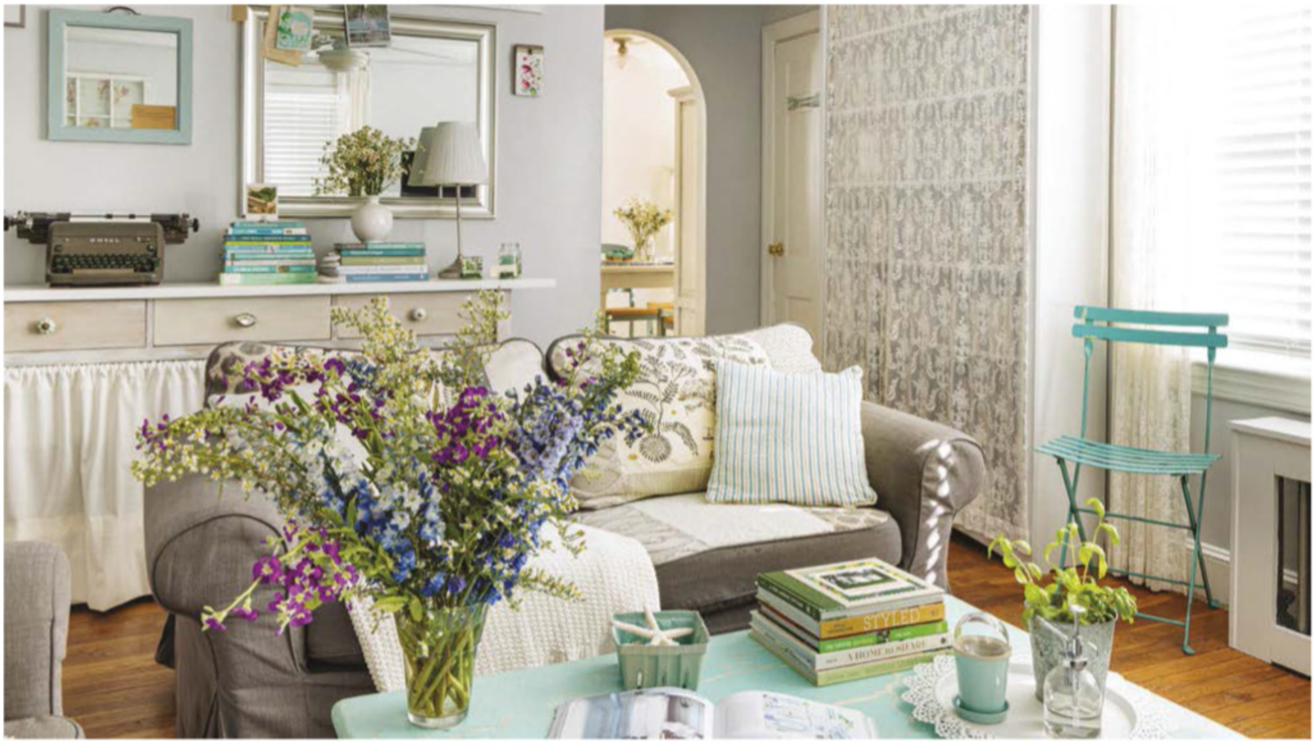
Homes come in all shapes and sizes but sitting on the smaller end of the square-footage spectrum shouldn't force a sacrifice in design or creativity.

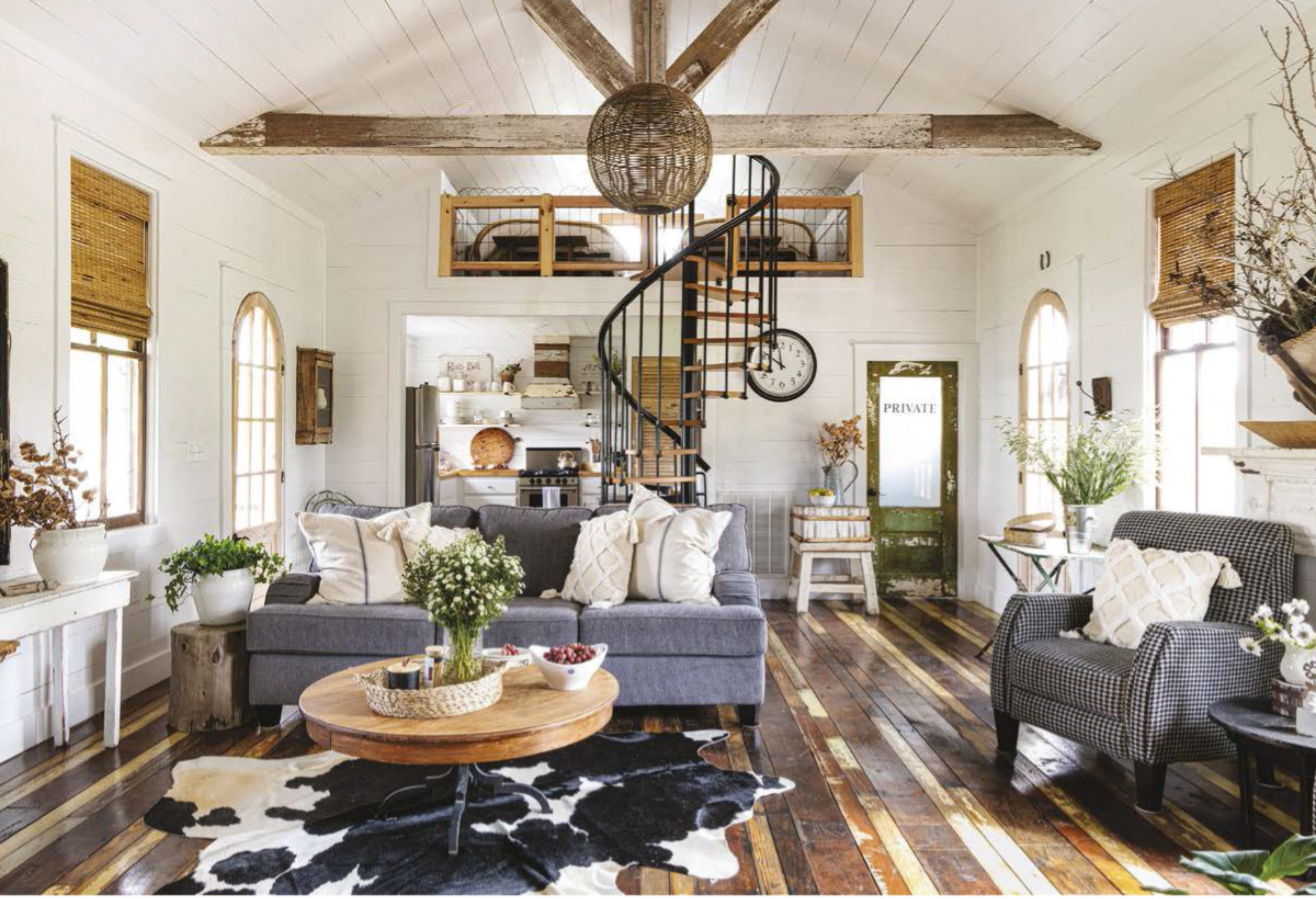
In her latest publication, *Small Spaces, Big Appeal*, Fifi O'Neill discloses "the luxury of less"—or the advantages of packing practicality and personality into a living area that lacks large room space. Smaller homes are becoming more popular as society considers environmental impact and housing costs, and there is also a greater desire to rely on fewer physical belongings to better connect with people and places.



|**ABOVE**| **AWESOME ARBOR.** European influence is evident in this lush cottage yard, complete with an arbor overflowing with greenery. The homeowner's eye for style transformed what used to be a pink and brown exterior into this fairytale 1920s façade that matches her vintage and upcycled interior décor.

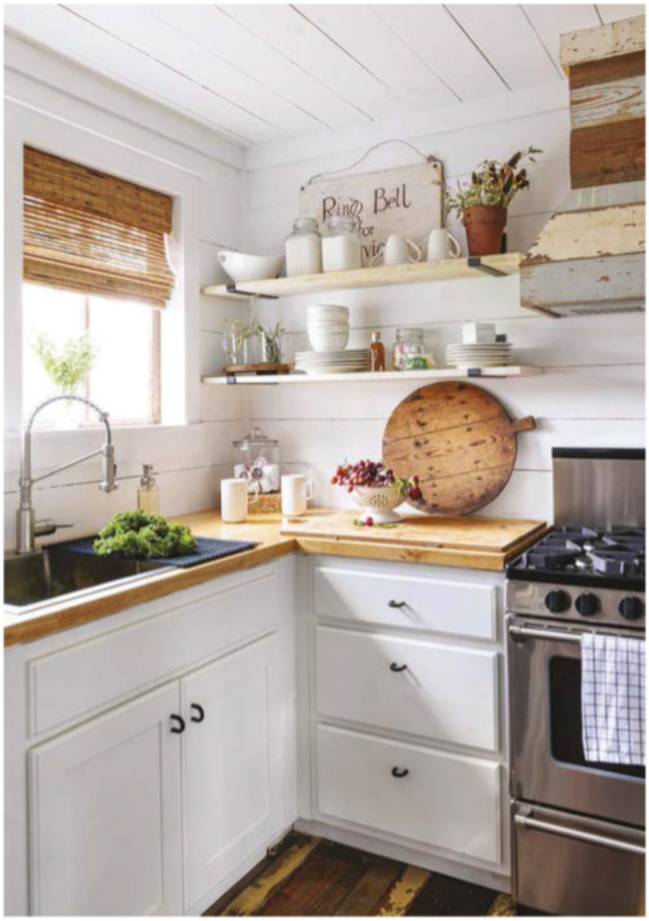
|**BELOW**| **KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Small rooms can feel cramped if you try to incorporate many colors, so adhering to a pared-down palette or theme is key. If your belongings don't match, consider adding a curtain to the front of your shelving to match the room but retain its functionality.





|**ABOVE**| **NEW HOME FOR OLD FINDS.** Nothing creates a cohesive look in a small farmhouse-style living area like reclaimed wood. The authentic floors and beams are not the only reimagined pieces: the wood coffee table found its way from an old Los Angeles hotel, while the doors and windows found new life after a stint at an antiques shop.

|**RIGHT**| **SMALL AND BRIGHT.** When your kitchen is small, a neutral palette of textures and materials will keep your space calm and charming rather than minimalist or devoid of personality, the author writes. Lighter, natural colors that don't compete with each other will make your kitchen look and feel larger.



"Contentment comes not in amassing things but in being selective about including only the most useful, beautiful and meaningful ones," O'Neill writes in *Small Spaces*. "Though the homes in this book are small, their owners have big dreams, which they have realized by choosing creativity over conformity."

The opening section presents the small-homes equivalent of Hollywood movie magic: a slew of insights that can make any small space, no matter the style, seem twice the size. Then, case studies on 12 different homes display those tips and more in action, providing insight from the homeowners about their functional ingenuity, color-palette approach and adding personal touches.

| **ABOVE, LEFT** | **DOUBLE UP.** Fifi believes every corner of the house has potential and should play multiple roles. Breakfast-nook benches can moonlight as storage containers, couches with pull-outs can work overtime as extra beds, credenzas can become home offices and baskets on shelving can double as décor/organizational tools.

| **ABOVE, RIGHT** | **SMART REFLECTIONS.** Soft, cheerful wallpaper and funky, fun mirrors add heaps of personality to this small room. Oversized mirrors are a fail-safe trick to creating the illusion of more square footage due to their ability to refract light into the darkest corners and reflect the room's charm.

SINGULAR STYLE

The beauty of the properties O'Neill includes is each space presents a unique example of cleverness and style. Whether you're drawn to classic cottages, modern farmhouses, sleek minimalist, eclectic Boho or any other look, the examples in Small Spaces run the gamut.

"Limited square footage requires a healthy dose of creativity and resourcefulness to achieve comfort and functionality while still allowing a favorite aesthetic," O'Neill writes.

Small Spaces, Big Appeal will help any first-time homeowner, renovator or downsizer make the most of a condensed footprint.

| **LEFT** | **SHADE PLAY.** Rather than search for colors that pair well without overpowering your quaint haven, focus on just one color story: How many different shades of that color can be incorporated? This simple design approach also reinforces that living with less can still produce a joyous space.

SMALL SPACES, BIG APPEAL
the luxury of less under 1,200 square feet
FIFI O'NEILL
with photography by Mark Lohman

Small Spaces, Big Appeal: The Luxury of Less in Under 1200 Square Feet by Fifi O'Neill with photography by Mark Lohman, published by CICO Books, 2023: rylandpeters.com.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIFI O'NEILL, FOLLOW HER ON INSTAGRAM **@MISSFIFI2610 AND FIFIONEILL.COM**.

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sources

DREAMY BLUE BEDROOM

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Ottoman: Lillian August, Ashton Court Bench, Catalina Blue fabric with Turon Tape in Blue, lillianaugust.hickorywhite.com.

Chairs: Lillian August, Royce Court Chair, Catalina Blue fabric with Turon Tape in blue, lillianaugust.hickorywhite.com.

Wall color: Gray Screen, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Trim color: Pure White, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Bedding: Garnet Hill, garnethill.com.

Bench: HomeGoods, homegoods.com.

BEACH COTTAGE HOMAGE

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To see more of Kelly Shannon's design work, visit her on Instagram @kshandesign. Learn more about RWA Builders on Instagram @rwabuilders.

Outdoor dining area

Fire pit: Hart Concrete, hartconcretedesign.com.

Light: Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

End chairs: K Shan Design, kshandesign.com.

Bench: Juxtaposition Home, juxtaposition.com.

Dishware: MM Clay, mmclay.com.

Glasses: Handblown by friends, Carmen and Caleb at Siemon and Salazar, siemonandsalazar.com.

Kitchen

Design: Corinna Thavirat, Corinna Lea Design, clthavirat.com, along with Kelly at K Shan Design, kshandesign.com.

Cabinets, construction: RWA Builders, Instagram @rwabuilders.

Windows: Marvin, marvin.com

Kitchen nook leather: Vertigo Home, vertigohome.us.

Fridge: Subzero

Stove: Lacanche, frenchranges.com.

Stools, faucets, water heater: deVOL, devolkitchens.com.

Kitchen knobs: Armac Martin, armacmartin.com.

Pendants: Urban Electric, urbanelectric.com.

Pottery: MM Clay, mmclay.com.

Plants: Mollywood, mollywoodgardendesign.com.

Bar cart

Bar cart: Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

Planter, candlesticks: Mollywood, mollywoodgardendesign.com.

Decanters, jars: heirlooms from paternal grandmother.

Madonna: heirloom from maternal grandmother.

Paintings: Audubon prints from Nicole's uncle, reframed by K Shan Design, kshandesign.com.

Dining room

Light: Urban Electric, urbanelectric.com.

Mirror: Juxtaposition Home, juxtaposition.com.

Living room

Couch, chairs: Juxtaposition Home, juxtaposition.com.

Table: Bliss Design Corona Del Mar, blisshomeanddesign.com.

Bubble vase: Handblown by friends Carmen and Caleb at Siemon and Salazar, siemonandsalazar.com.

Pillows: custom from K Shan Design, kshandesign.com, and Juxtaposition, juxtaposition.com.

RESCUED FROM THE RUBBLE

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To see more of Cane Cottage, visit @canecottage on Instagram.

Design

Hollingsworth Showroom, hollingsworthshowroom.com.

Bunk room

Built by Zach and his father.

Flag: antique, borrowed from Zach's mother.

Kitchen

Fabric: Schumacher and Co., schumacher.com.

Bedroom

Bedframe, mirror: Serena and Lily, serenaandlily.com.

Their businesses

Worth: Soaptique, soaptique.com; Hollingsworth Showroom, hollingsworthshowroom.com.

Zach: Southeast Veterinary Oncology and Internal Medicine, southeastveterinaryoncologyandinternalmedicine.com; Baba Boards, instagram @bababoards.

SUMMER LIVING ON THE LAKE

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For more information about Muskoka Living Interiors, visit their website at muskokaliving.ca. To contact The Studio - Alisa x Kailey, email info@thestudioaxk.com or visit thestudioaxk.com.

TABLESCAPE TRAVEL TO ITALY

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To see more Andreina's creativity, follow her on Instagram @andreinacottagestyle. And to learn more about photographer Melisa Amengual, follow her @meliamengualphoto.

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Anchors Aweigh

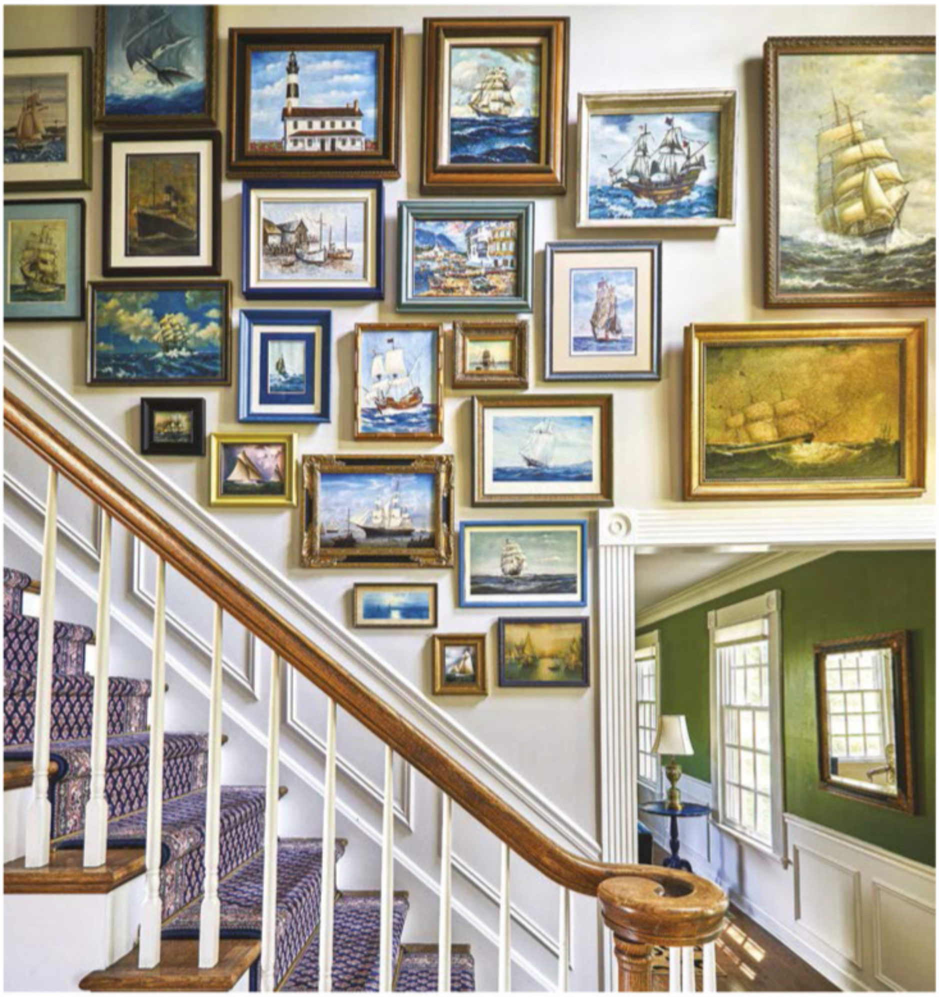
BY IAN MCMASTER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES VITULLO

Set sail on a sea of style with a nautical-themed gallery wall!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO CREATE a unique and eye-catching space in your home, consider incorporating a nautical themed gallery wall into your decor. This classic design style is a great way to add some character and charm to your space, whether you live by the ocean or not.

"The idea behind this gallery was to create a strong focal point as you walk into our home," says Lindsay Lewis of @grandmillenialmama. "It's a great conversation starter."

To style a nautical-themed gallery, start by selecting a mix of frames in different sizes and shapes. Look for frames with a weathered or distressed finish to give them an authentic, vintage look. "Many of the frames I hand-painted to give the wall a little more flair," Lindsay says.



Next, choose your artwork. Look for pieces that feature images of ships, anchors, lighthouses, sea creatures, or other nautical motifs. You can mix and match different styles and mediums, such as prints, photographs, paintings, and even three-dimensional objects like seashells or driftwood. "I began collecting art during the pandemic from all over, including Facebook Marketplace, Etsy, eBay as well as a few from Wayfair," Lindsay says. "Several of these pieces were gifted to me from friends and family, and those will always mean the most."

When it comes to arranging your collage, you can start by laying out all your pieces on the floor to get a sense of the overall composition and play around with different configurations until you find one that feels balanced and visually pleasing. "You should include many different sizes and shapes of frames as well as both vertical and horizontal pieces," Lindsay says. For the free-spirited, like Lindsay, you can also take a different approach. "For this large of a wall, I prefer hanging as I go. This wall was a bit like Tetris!"

For a cohesive look, try to keep your spacing consistent between frames. You can also create some visual interest by staggering the heights of your frames or grouping similar pieces together.

To learn more about Lindsay and her Grand Millennial style, visit her on Instagram **@grandmillennialmama** and her website **grandmillennialmama.net** or contact her at **lindsaylewis7@gmail.com.**

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